Hafa Adai!

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'Give cannabis a chance'

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Malua Peter fought back tears as she recalled how her husband, the late David "Taulamwaar" Peter, struggled with post-traumatic stress disorder and later Stage IV cancer before the disease finally took his life three years ago. In those years, cannabis kept her husband calm and eased his suffering.

See CANNABIS on Page 4

JON PEREZ

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signs House Bill 19-178 or the Taulamwaar Sensible CNMI Cannabis Act of 2018 into law last Friday at a jam-packed conference room of the Office of the Governor Building on Capital Hill.

WHAT NOW

IN BRIEF: Possession of limited amounts of marijuana is now legal for adults 21 and older; home-growing will be legal within four months and regulated sales are expected to begin next year

■ It is now legal for adults 21 years of age and older to possess limited amounts of marijuana (one ounce), marijuana-infused products (16 ounces in solid form, 72 ounces in liquid form), and marijuana extracts (5 grams).

■ Within 30 days of the bill being signed, a five-member CNMI Cannabis Commission must be appointed to serve as the regulatory agency overseeing commercial marijuana and hemp.

■ A Homegrown Marijuana Reg-

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Local

2 lawyers' performance in case found not deficient

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court finds that that a notary public's two former counsel's performance of their professional obligations in plea negotiations and at the change-of-plea hearing was not deficient.

In a written decision denying Liang Li's motion to allow him to withdraw his guilty plea, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona determined that Li's former counsel—Rene Holmes and Mark Scoggins—did not overbear the defendant's will and forced him to plead guilty.

"It was no secret that this guilty plea was a bitter pill for defendant to swallow," said Manglona, adding that she acknowledged it immediately after Li admitted he was guilty.

At the change of plea hearing, the judge stated, "I know it's difficult, but I see the reasons."

On Jan. 8, 2018, Li notarized a statement of a father's consent to a U.S. passport application for his child under the age of 16. Li swore under oath that he had witnessed the father sign and had verified the father's identification.

Because of errors in how the form was filled out, the passport office rejected it. On Jan. 10, the mother returned to Li to notarize a corrected statement of consent.

Unfortunately, the child's father had already flown back home to China. Even so, Li, in violation of the oath printed on the form, notarized the document and affirmed that the father had signed it in his presence and shown identification, according to court documents.

Li was charged with aiding and abetting the lie in a passport application—a felony. A week before trial, he signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government to change his plea from not guilty to guilty. The change-of-plea hearing was held last April 3, in which Li pleaded guilty to lying in a passport application.

Scoggins

On Aug. 8, with his new counsel, Janet H. King, Li filed a motion, asking the court to allow him to withdraw his guilty plea.

Li alleged that his former lawyers—Holmes and Scoggins—pressured him to take the plea by giving him less than a day to consider it, telling him he had no chance of winning if he went to trial, and threatening him with prison time if did not accept the offer. Then-assistant U.S. attorney James Benedetto described Li's allegations as false.

Manglona denied Li's motion and sentenced him last Friday to two years of probation, with six months to be served in home detention.

In the written decision denying Li's motion to allow him to withdraw his guilty plea, Manglona said that Holmes and Scoggins had worked the case and secured a much improved plea agreement—a recommendation of a sentence of probation and avoiding jail time altogether.

Manglona noted that uncontradicted testimony at the motion hearing, supported by billing records, was that on April 2 Li's previous counsel spent more than six hours on the case, including meeting with Li, and that Scoggins met with Li again the next morning.

The judge pointed out that Li himself testified that Holmes read the plea agreement to him page by page.

Manglona said in a message to AskDOJ, Li acknowledged that it was the prosecutor who forced the issue by not reducing or dismissing the charges and "rushing me to sign the plea agreement instead."

Manglona said former counsel properly and responsibly urged Li to recognize that by rejecting the no-prison offer, he was likely to end up with a conviction after trial and a sentence that includes significant prison time.

The judge said Li complains that his former counsel turned a deaf ear to his reservations about pleading guilty when he did not feel like a felon.

Manglona said Holmes' conduct at the change-of-plea hearing, however, belies that complaint.

Manglona said when the prosecutor, reciting the factual basis, told the court that the child's father had not signed the consent form in Li's presence either on Jan. 8 or on Jan. 10, Holmes corrected that statement.

Holmes made it clear that the father had in fact appeared before Li and signed in his presence on Jan. 8; that on Jan. 10 Li was told the signature on the new form was the father's; and that Li was attempting to correct an error.

Manglona said the prosecutor confirmed that "the government would agree with everything that Ms. Holmes said."

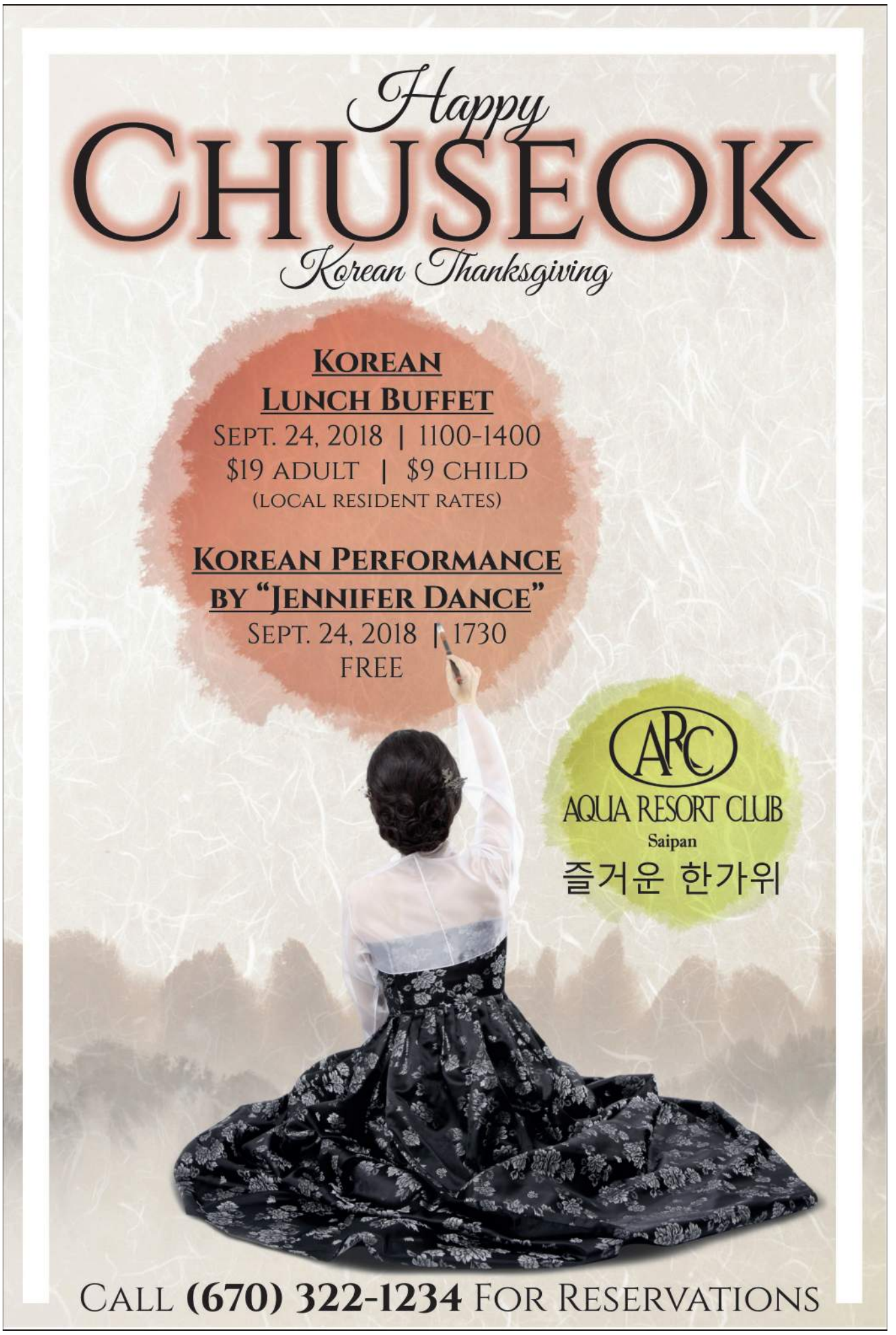
Manglona said that Li also alleges that Scoggins told him that lying on a passport application is a strict liability crime, when in fact it is not.

The judge said what Scoggins may have been trying to get across to Li was that he could be guilty as charged even if he did not have an evil motive, so long as he knew that the statement was false and the purpose of the application was to secure a passport.

Manglona said Li's more serious allegation is that his former counsel scared him into pleading guilty by conjuring the nightmare of sexual assault in prison.

On the stand, Holmes and Scoggins vigorously denied they had made such a threat or would ever so threaten a client. Manglona said she finds the testimony of Holmes and Scoggins to be credible.

"Former counsel would have had no motive to put their bar license on the line to get a client to accept a plea offer," Manglona said.



Homeless coalition meeting set

The CNMI Homeless Coalition would like to give notice that it will be having its general membership meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2018, 9am at the Tanapag Youth Center.

The coalition would like to invite its partners, organizations, agencies and individuals providing direct or indirect services to individuals and/or families who are homeless or at-risk of being homeless to attend meeting.

For any inquiries contact Jacob Muna at (670) 234-6866/9447 or email at jjmuna@nmhc.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

United introduces 'Better Boarding'

United Airlines is expanding enhancements to its boarding at gates in airports around the world. The updated better boarding process gives customers more space at the gate, less time waiting in line and improved boarding information to create a less stressful environment.

"The boarding process was one of the top areas customers told us they wanted improved," said Sarah Murphy, vice president of Global Operations Strategy, Planning and Design at United. "We listened to customers and employees as we tested a variety of processes on thousands of flights until we found a better boarding process that results in less time spent waiting in lines, improved communication and a better way to recognize our Premier customers while balancing out the number of passengers in each boarding group."

The improvements start with reducing the number of boarding lanes from five to two, giving customers added space, more time to relax and less time spent in line. With more time, passengers can enjoy a nearby United Club or lounge or airport restaurants and shops before their flight. United app users will also receive a new alert when boarding has begun for their flight, making it easier to know when to make their way to the gate. In the future, United will expand these notifications to text messages. Digital displays in the gate area also keep customers informed with updated helpful boarding information.

United's enhanced boarding also provides an upgraded experience for some of the airline's top MileagePlus members. United's MileagePlus Premier 1K customers who previously boarded in group one, will now be invited to pre-board, and United's MileagePlus Premier Gold customers will also move up in the boarding process from group two to group one. These changes not only give these customers more time to settle into their seats, but also help balance out the number of customers in each of the airline's five boarding groups. United is also expanding its military pre- boarding group from uniformed military members to also include all active duty military members to even better recognize those serving our country. Qualifying United credit card holders will continue to receive priority boarding in group two.

United started testing a variety of boarding concepts in the fall of 2017, soliciting feedback from customers and employees along the way. After testing these changes at numerous airports,

United received overwhelmingly positive feedback from customers and employees who experienced the better boarding process. United began rolling out aspects of this process, including updated signage at select airports across its network earlier this year, and putting it into effect at all gates at Los Angeles International Airport in February. Beginning September 18, the better boarding will appear at over 1,000 gates across the globe.

For more information on better boarding, including a video tutorial, visit the United Hub. *(United)*

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CHCC not open to dispensing pot

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. emphasized Thursday that it does not look forward to acting as a dispensary of cannabis, both recreationally and medically.

CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña noted that she is not open to the idea of setting up a cannabis dispensary at the Commonwealth Health Center.

"[Selling cannabis medically and recreationally] contradicts our mission," she said. "We have to stick to our mission no matter what, even when we look at revenue-generation."

At the end of the day, the buck stops here when it comes to taking care of people," she added.

Muña cited studies on the adverse effects of cannabis on the brain of young persons.

In a letter dated Aug. 29, 2018, to Sen. Steve Mesngon (R-Rota) and Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), CHCC through Muña and CHCC board chair Lauri Ogumoro reiterated their neutral perspective on the bill.

"…CHCC has decided to take a neutral position on the core question of marijuana legalization. However, we cannot stress with enough urgency that policymakers make available in a timely manner the resources and technical capacities necessary for the effective control of marijuana," Ogumoro wrote to Blanco.

Ogumoro emphasized that cannabis products for consumption should be properly labeled to indicate its potency. Muña later reiterated the same point in a follow-up letter to Mesngon.

"Regulating the production and sales of cannabis, as [the cannabis bill] sets out to do, is a substantial and complex undertaking. To restate previous letters sent to the Legislature on this subject, if the CNMI government desires to legalize cannabis use, it simultaneously accepts the onus of ensuring that only safe, pure, and properly labeled cannabis products are responsibly sold only to those who have reached 21 years of age," Muña wrote.

JON PEREZ

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, seated center, joins pro-cannabis groups and other individuals after signing the bill that legalizes the medicinal and recreational use of marijuana last Friday at the conference room of the Office of the Governor building on Capital Hill.

WHAT

From Page 1

istry will be created, through which adults and patients can register to grow a limited number of marijuana plants (six mature and 12 immature or up to twice that amount in the case of medical need) for personal use. If the registry is not created within 120 days of the Cannabis Commission's organizational meeting, adults can grow cannabis without registering until it is available.

■ Within 180 days of the Cannabis Commission's organizational meeting, it must prescribe forms and adopt rules for the program, which will include six types of regulated marijuana businesses: producers, testing facilities, processors, retailers, wholesalers, and lounges. Once licensing regulations are adopted, the commission shall begin accepting applications and may not unreasonably delay processing, approval, or rejection of applications.

■ A 10-percent ad valorem excise tax will be imposed on cannabis grown in the Commonwealth.

Source: House Bill 20-178/ The Taulamwaar Sensible CNMI Cannabis Act of 2018

CANNABIS

From Page 1

That personal experience with how cannabis helped her husband and eased his pain convinced Peter, a former House lawmaker and Board of Education member, that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres was doing the right thing when he—at about 2:30pm last Friday and with Saipan under Tropical Storm Condition 3—enacted House Bill 20-178, a pro-cannabis legislation that saw the CNMI make history as the first U.S. territory to legalize both medical and recreational use of marijuana. That also made the CNMI the first U.S. jurisdiction to do so through its legislature, rather than via ballot initiative.

That historic moment was witnessed by close to 70 pro-cannabis legalization individuals and group members that packed the conference room of the Office of the Governor building on Capital Hill.

H.B. 20-178, titled the Taulamwaar Sensible CNMI Cannabis Act of 2018, was approved 6-0-2 in the CNMI Senate last week and 18-1-1 in the CNMI House of Representatives on Aug. 8 after several public hearings on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and months of being shepherded through the CNMI Legislature.

The law legalizes and controls the use of cannabis in the Commonwealth, becoming the first U.S. jurisdiction to allow the commercial and medicinal use of marijuana. Those who are allowed are adults 21 years old or older.

P.L. 20-66 was named after the late David Peter, a Vietnam War veteran and a cultural icon in the community, who died almost three years ago. He was a known-musician and leader of the band Rematua, who penned the Carolinian verses of the CNMI national anthem—*Gi Talo Gi Halom Tasi/Satil Matawal Pacifico*.

His wife, Malua, said that marijuana became part of their lives and their family became closer in helping her husband get through PTSD and cancer.

"I didn't know anything about [PTSD before] because he had marijuana all the time to keep him calm," said Peter, who added that their family stayed together and continued with their lives.

"We had to move to Washington [State] to be with our boys when he was found with Stage IV cancer so he could start taking the hemp oil. He did took that and his cancer cell count were diminishing, and then he decided to come back to Saipan to be with the rest of his family here."

She told her husband they can't return to the CNMI since he needs to continue using hemp oil but he insisted. "He came back to be with the rest of the family. He chose to come back home. That's when his condition got worse but he didn't want to be taken to the hospital."

She recalled that some of their relatives would go to their house to volunteer to bring him to the hospital but he refused.

"That's why, on behalf of the people who are in need or families that are in this stage, searching for something to help their [loved ones], thank you for taking a stand. I always tell the people to come up to me if you want to know about marijuana, come ask me because I lived with the guy for over 50 years. … We never had a problem, because it [marijuana] kept him calm. So, thank you governor, the legislators, and all for supporting this."

Peter also appealed to the critics and others who only see the negative effects of the new law. "For the people who are not supporting the move that the Legislature and the governor did, be patient and allow the people to be healed."

"This is not a personal need and we have a lot of people that need to survive with all the cancers that's going around. Please give us a chance and allow these people to survive."

Not yet legal

Although Torres has already signed the bill, this does not mean that smoking marijuana is now instantly legal as certain rules and regulations must first be in place. "Today, our people made history. We took a stand to legalize marijuana in the CNMI for recreational, medical, and commercial use."

"Now, I want to advise the Commonwealth that it is not legal to use marijuana yet. We have 30 days to set up our [five-member] Cannabis Commission by appointing members from Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands, and our local legislative delegations would need to confirm them within 30 days."

Once the commission has been formed, they will have 180 days to create and promulgate the regulations, which would then take effect 10 days after its adoption and publication in the *Commonwealth Register*.

"We will ensure that this industry will be properly regulated and enforced. We want to do this the right way and I also expect the Legislature to send me a companion bill that outlines my recommendations to strengthen [P.L. 20-66] for our community's safety and public health."

He thanked the Legislature and others who helped craft and improve the language of the bill. "From the hard work of our Legislature going out and conducting numerous public hearings on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to the overwhelming support from members of our community, it is only fitting that I sign this bill into law in the best interest of our people, especially those suffering from debilitating illnesses and for our island economy."

"I want to thank our Legislature, especially the authors, Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan) and Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), our advocates, and everyone in our community for sharing their concerns and helping us realize this historic day for the people that call these islands home."

Some comments

Sensible CNMI, co-founded by Laurence Duponcheel and Gerry Hemley, welcomed the signing of the law as it would finally make the CNMI transition from prohibiting marijuana to controlling it.

"I am proud of the CNMI leadership, citizens, and national organizations for working together to thoughtfully develop and approve a progressive piece of legislation that will improve the quality of life of so many," said Duponcheel.

"Together, we are telling the world that we do not feel that our citizens should be stigmatized and criminalized for the responsible adult use of cannabis and that they should no longer be denied access to this life-saving medicine," Duponcheel said.

For Hemley, the signing of the law makes the CNMI achieve a lot of firsts. "The CNMI became the first U.S. jurisdiction to do it legislatively as opposed to Vermont and we included recreational.

"We're also the first to move from a full prohibition to full legalization mindset, compared to other states that started from medical marijuana. The journey begins with the governor setting up the commission and we're going to see from there how we would benefit from this."

Commonwealth Healthcare Center medical director Dr. John Doyle said recreational use would make easy access to cannabis for patients who need them. "This is the reason why I was fighting for recreational use as opposed to medical. For instance, the new drug that's derived from cannabis has been patented and approved by the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration]. It is the same drug that they've been giving kids with seizures. The pharmaceutical companies put a price tag on it of $37,000 a year. Basically, those who need it medically will be able to grow it on their own backyard."

House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee chair Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) also expressed his gratitude to those who helped improved the bill. "Thank you to all the House and [JGO] Committee members, the individuals who are on or off-island, the organizations, and government agencies."

"Thank you for providing input that significantly improved the language of now P.L. 20-66. We also thank the authors [Deleon Guerrero and Igisomar], the members of the Legislature, and the governor for working together on this historic bill," added Blanco.

Laws legalizing and regulating marijuana for adult use have been adopted by voters in eight states: Alaska, California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. Lawmakers in Vermont and voters in D.C. have adopted laws that make marijuana possession and cultivation legal for adults, but they do not regulate commercial production or sales.

FSM honors student makes history at Sophia U

TOKYO, Japan—A 21-year-old Chuukese college senior, who until four years ago had never stepped foot in Japan, graduated this month with honors from Sophia University, the historic Jesuit university in Tokyo that was founded more than 100 years ago.

Mary Helen Mori, who graduated with a 3.44 grade point average, is the first recipient of the "Xavier High School International Students Scholarship" to graduate from the university. The Tokyo-based Association for Promotion of International Cooperation founded the full-ride scholarship program. It is for graduates of Xavier High School in Chuuk who are from the Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, and Palau.

"Mary Helen Mori has had an outstanding academic record at Sophia University over these past four years. And she's been a real leader among the small but growing number of Xavier graduates who are attending Sophia supported by our scholarship," said APIC president Peter Yoshiyasu Sato.

Mori, who is majoring in anthropology and minoring in political science, earned first honors at Xavier High School, where she graduated with the Class of 2014.

The APIC undergraduate scholarship currently supports six Xavier High School graduates at Sophia University: Risa Mariana Oue, Andrei Miguel Ronquillo, Liana NeiLoria Kozue Preston-Irons, Shaun Mingii, Chloe RoseAnn Arnold, and Paul Charley Jr.

A separate APIC scholarship program, in partnership with Sophia University and the Micronesian Conservation Trust, is currently supporting four Micronesians who are pursuing master's degrees in environmental studies at the Jesuit university: Tamae Waguk of Kosrae, Lajkit M. Rufus of the Marshall Islands, Bertha Reyuw of Yap, and Bradford Mori of Chuuk. Recipients of APIC's graduate scholarships do not have to be graduates of Xavier High School.

After participating in Sophia University's commencement exercises last Sept. 20, Mori will return home to Chuuk in the Federated States of Micronesia and spend the coming year planning for graduate school. She wants to get a master's degree in political science.

Mori says her four years in Tokyo have given her the confidence to consider a wide range of opportunities.

"At first I was afraid of the unfamiliar and this experience had taught me to embrace it as it has only made me stronger and [readier] to face other challenges in life," she said. ***(PR)***

NAMI KATO/APIC

Association for Promotion of International Cooperation president Peter Yoshiyasu Sato, left, with Sophia University graduate Mary Helen Mori and her father Takeru Mori. Sato held a dinner honoring Mary Helen Mori at the exclusive Tokyo Club.

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*Protective Factors are facts that have been shown to reduce the risk of suicide.
This ad was developed in part under grant number 1H79SM062879-01 from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The views, policies, and opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of SAMHSA or HHS.

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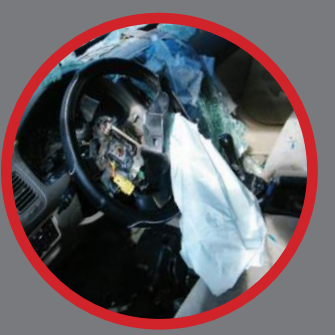
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IT&E opens text-to-donate line for typhoon victims

HARMON, Guam—A week after Typhoon Mangkhut pummeled through the Marianas, residents are still in need of help as the try to rebuild their lives following the storm's destruction. IT&E is working to help victims of the typhoon by opening a text-to-donate line, donating supplies, and extending September's payment deadlines.

Typhoon Mangkhut lashed Rota and Guam with heavy rains and sustained winds estimated at more than 100 mph on Sept. 10. Federal and local government agencies continue to assess the damage done.

"Typhoon Mangkhut is a reminder that the strength of our island communities lies in the willingness of our people to help each other in times of need," said Danny Daniel, senior manager of Brand and Public Relations, IT&E. Working hand in hand, we can help our islands recover."

IT&E has opened a text-to-donate line for its subscribers to help give relief to victims of the typhoon. Funds raised will go to the American Red Cross NMI and Guam Chapters to help provide food, supplies, shelter, and much-needed services.

Subscribers can donate $1, $5, or $10 by texting the following to HELP (4357):

- GIVE1 to donate $1
- GIVE5 to donate $5
- GIVE10 to donate $10

The text-to-donate line is open until Oct. 3.

IT&E Guam and Saipan also collected and donated supplies, including non-perishable food items, batteries, diapers, toiletries, and 300 cases of bottled water to the American Red Cross.

To encourage subscribers to focus their resources on recovery, IT&E is extending September billing for Guam and CNMI residential and business accounts from Sept. 15 to Sept. 27. ***(IT&E)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IT&E management and associates in Guam and Saipan donate supplies to victims of Typhoon Mangkhut in Rota. Donations include, non-perishable food items, batteries, diapers, toiletries and 300 cases of bottled water.

MVA notes drop in vandalism at tourist sites

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority has noted a drop in the number of incidents of desecration of facilities and monuments at popular tourist sites on Saipan.

MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion believes this happened because law enforcers have stepped up their efforts to watch these areas.

"I think it discouraged people from vandalizing our tourist sites. So far so good," he said, adding that he has lately not seen any reports from the Department of Public Safety about such incidents.

"I hope this community has learned and continues to appreciate that the tourism industry really is the only industry we have here. It's really important for the overall wellbeing of the people here," he said.

At present, MVA has been paying security guards to watch tourist sites in Marpi, Obyan Beach, Lau Lau Bay, Grotto Dive Spot, and Bird Island Lookout.

DPS Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero cites police officers' anti-drug campaign as a factor behind the significant reduction in the CNMI's crime rate.

Guerrero said a check with court cases also shows a drop in the number of crimes in the Commonwealth.

In his State of the Commonwealth Address last month, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres disclosed that the crime rate is down by 65.3 percent, compared to the numbers in 2013.

In five years, Torres said, domestic violence decreased by over 78 percent and property crimes are down by 58 percent.

Guerrero said that, with drugs down, this has also significantly reduced the crime rate.

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Closing Date: Wednesday, October 3, 2018

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Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Power Division Manager or his/her designee. Manages engineering projects and coordinates resources from design through completion of construction; develops scope of work; develops and maintains project plan and schedules; monitors, reviews and evaluates project progress and status; ensures compliance with specifications, standards, contract, requirements and codes. Prepares engineering design calculations, analyses, drawings, technical specifications, cost estimates, contract documents, change orders, reports, correspondence and other related documents. Reviews project submittals, drawings, and schedules for approval; reviews and certifies contractor payment requests; tracks project funding and expenditures; maintains project files and records. Performs research studies and provides technical assistance; responds to inquiries and technical information requests related to projects; identifies and analyzes issues; and recommends and implements solutions. Conducts investigations and inspections; collects and maintains field data; identifies and analyzes problems with equipment, systems or operations; conducts testing and troubleshoots issues; recommends or implements modifications, solutions or enhancements. Assists with bid administration processes; participates on and provides technical support to special project teams as required. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION: **Power Division : Transmission & Distribution, Saipan,** Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: $40,084.00 to $45,141.00 per annum, Exempt (Commensurate with Qualifications and Experience)
CONTRACT: Two (2) years, subject to renewal

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering and four (4) years of general professional, electrical engineering experience. **Knowledge of:** Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Engineering and construction principles, methods, practices, and techniques; Engineering planning, specification, and drawing methods and techniques; Mathematical concepts; Applicable equipment, controls and systems of assigned area of responsibility; Safety principles and practices; Data collection techniques; Research methods; Project management principles; Contract administration principles; Customer service principles; Quality assurance principles; Modern office technology. **Skills in:** Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Providing project management and resource coordination; Developing project scope and plan; Monitoring project schedules, status and compliance; Preparing plan designs, calculations, technical specifications, and other technical documentation; Performing technical review of submittals, drawings, and schedules; Monitoring project funding and expenditures; Maintaining project files and records; Performing research studies; Responding to technical inquiries and information requests; Identifying, troubleshooting and investigating issues; Recommending, developing and implementing solutions; Conducting investigations and inspections; Collecting, analyzing and maintaining field data; Administering and monitoring contract compliance; Assisting with bid administration processes; Applying safe work practices; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Applicants may be tested. Subject to pre-employment drug test.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office..

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A.
Tel. Nos. (670) 664-4282 Fax (670) 235-5131

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 18-067

Opening Date: Thursday, September 20, 2018
Closing Date: Wednesday, October 3, 2018

Junior Engineer

Duties: Work under the direct supervision of the Division Manager or his/her designee. Designs electric and distribution and oversees the completion of assigned tasks. Executes and coordinates portions of assigned projects and tasks; adhere to applicable specifications and standards. Manage assigned aspects of electric and distribution projects. Perform construction inspection. Support operations with technical assistance; collect, maintain, and organize operational data for engineering analysis. Maintain project files; prepare related correspondence. Prepare design calculations, engineering drawings, and sketches. Draft parts of a variety of engineering reports and correspondence. Assist with data collection, troubleshooting and equipment analysis; evaluate electric and distribution system needs and perform engineering analysis. Performs research for design and operational efficiency improvements; provides recommendations of options to improve system operations. Perform other duties of a similar nature or level.

LOCATION: **Power Division : Transmission & Distribution, Saipan,** Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: $37,756.00 to $42,519.00 per annum, Exempt (Commensurate with Qualifications and Experience)
CONTRACT: Two (2) years, subject to renewal

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering and two (2) years of related experience. Knowledge of and ability to use AutoCAD and GIS is preferred but not required. **Knowledge of:** Engineering principles and practices; mathematical, pumping and hydraulics, and transmission and distribution concepts. Knowledge of and skill with GIS is preferred but not required. **Skills in:** Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; organizing, collecting information and evaluating data; preparing and presenting technical information for reports and/or documentation;; estimating construction costs; conducting studies. Able to: read and understand construction drawings; able to read and interpret specifications; use computers and related software applications; communicate; interact with co-workers, supervisor, and contractors to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a CNMI driver's license or one from a U.S. jurisdiction. Applicants may be tested AND are subject to pre-employment drug testing.

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

IT&E opens text-to-donate line for typhoon victims

HARMON, Guam—A week after Typhoon Mangkhut pummeled through the Marianas, residents are still in need of help as the try to rebuild their lives following the storm's destruction. IT&E is working to help victims of the typhoon by opening a text-to-donate line, donating supplies, and extending September's payment deadlines.

Typhoon Mangkhut lashed Rota and Guam with heavy rains and sustained winds estimated at more than 100 mph on Sept. 10. Federal and local government agencies continue to assess the damage done.

"Typhoon Mangkhut is a reminder that the strength of our island communities lies in the willingness of our people to help each other in times of need," said Danny Daniel, senior manager of Brand and Public Relations, IT&E. Working hand in hand, we can help our islands recover."

IT&E has opened a text-to-donate line for its subscribers to help give relief to victims of the typhoon. Funds raised will go to the American Red Cross NMI and Guam Chapters to help provide food, supplies, shelter, and much-needed services.

Subscribers can donate $1, $5, or $10 by texting the following to HELP (4357):

- GIVE1 to donate $1
- GIVE5 to donate $5
- GIVE10 to donate $10

The text-to-donate line is open until Oct. 3.

IT&E Guam and Saipan also collected and donated supplies, including non-perishable food items, batteries, diapers, toiletries, and 300 cases of bottled water to the American Red Cross.

To encourage subscribers to focus their resources on recovery, IT&E is extending September billing for Guam and CNMI residential and business accounts from Sept. 15 to Sept. 27. ***(IT&E)***

AP

IT&E management and associates in Guam and Saipan donate supplies to victims of Typhoon Mangkhut in Rota. Donations include, non-perishable food items, batteries, diapers, toiletries and 300 cases of bottled water.

MVA notes drop in vandalism at tourist sites

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority has noted a drop in the number of incidents of desecration of facilities and monuments at popular tourist sites on Saipan.

MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion believes this happened because law enforcers have stepped up their efforts to watch these areas.

"I think it discouraged people from vandalizing our tourist sites. So far so good," he said, adding that he has lately not seen any reports from the Department of Public Safety about such incidents.

"I hope this community has learned and continues to appreciate that the tourism industry really is the only industry we have here. It's really important for the overall wellbeing of the people here," he said.

At present, MVA has been paying security guards to watch tourist sites in Marpi, Obyan Beach, Lau Lau Bay, Grotto Dive Spot, and Bird Island Lookout.

DPS Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero cites police officers' anti-drug campaign as a factor behind the significant reduction in the CNMI's crime rate.

Guerrero said a check with court cases also shows a drop in the number of crimes in the Commonwealth.

In his State of the Commonwealth Address last month, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres disclosed that the crime rate is down by 65.3 percent, compared to the numbers in 2013.

In five years, Torres said, domestic violence decreased by over 78 percent and property crimes are down by 58 percent.

Guerrero said that, with drugs down, this has also significantly reduced the crime rate.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A.
Tel. Nos. (670) 664-4282 Fax (670) 235-5131

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 18-066

Opening Date: Thursday, September 20, 2018
Closing Date: Wednesday, October 3, 2018

Engineer: Electrical Engineer

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Power Division Manager or his/her designee. Manages engineering projects and coordinates resources from design through completion of construction; develops scope of work; develops and maintains project plan and schedules; monitors, reviews and evaluates project progress and status; ensures compliance with specifications, standards, contract, requirements and codes. Prepares engineering design calculations, analyses, drawings, technical specifications, cost estimates, contract documents, change orders, reports, correspondence and other related documents. Reviews project submittals, drawings, and schedules for approval; reviews and certifies contractor payment requests; tracks project funding and expenditures; maintains project files and records. Performs research studies and provides technical assistance; responds to inquiries and technical information requests related to projects; identifies and analyzes issues; and recommends and implements solutions. Conducts investigations and inspections; collects and maintains field data; identifies and analyzes problems with equipment, systems or operations; conducts testing and troubleshoots issues; recommends or implements modifications, solutions or enhancements. Assists with bid administration processes; participates on and provides technical support to special project teams as required. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Kilili, McGovern agree to work on Marianas food stamps

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) has reached an agreement with Massachusetts Rep. James McGovern to work together on legislation to bring the Marianas into the national food stamp program.

McGovern is the top Democrat on the House Nutrition Subcommittee, which has jurisdiction over SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. He is expected to chair the Rules Committee, which controls what legislation goes to the House floor, if Democrats take over the majority of the U.S. House of Representatives in January.

"I am working one year ahead on the food stamp issue," Sablan said. "Food stamp benefits in the Marianas have doubled, and 3,610 families will be eligible beginning Oct. 1. This significant improvement is the result of the $32.5 million I put into the 2014 Agricultural Act.

"But the Commonwealth government already plans to cut benefits and push families out of the program in October 2019. So, between then and now, it is my job to find more money for the Commonwealth's program. Or I must get the Marianas into SNAP. Jim McGovern has agreed to help me."

Sablan and McGovern recently exchanged letters to memorialize their agreement. Sablan explained that delays in spending the 2014 money had blocked his efforts to add additional funds to the farm bill now in conference in Congress. "My goal for the farm bill had been to extend the [Marianas] pilot program or, ideally, bring the Marianas into SNAP," Sablan wrote.

Unfortunately, he told McGovern, Republicans on the Agriculture Committee blocked an extension. Because the Commonwealth government and the Agriculture Department took their time in ramping up the pilot program, at the beginning of 2018 there were still $22.5 million in unspent funds from 2014.

In his letter, Sablan wrote, "I raised a ruckus at home about the delayed spending and took flak for doing so. But the result was that benefits were raised in May and just this week it was announced income thresholds would be lifted.

"Higher benefits. More families fed. These are good outcomes."

Program will run out of funds

With more families getting higher benefits the Marianas program now faces a new problem: it will run out of funds. So, the Commonwealth plans to cut benefits and reduce the number of families that qualify for food aid a year from now. Sablan is already working on options to make sure that does not happen.

McGovern, who is one of the conferees on the farm bill now under consideration, agreed with Sablan's analysis. "House and Senate Agriculture Committee leaders are currently working to reconcile the differences between the House and Senate-passed farm bills," he wrote. "As you noted, this process is in its final stages. Given that, it is right to look for other opportunities to advance the goal of bringing the Northern Mariana Islands into [SNAP].

"Should stand-alone legislation be necessary to achieve this goal be necessary, please know I am happy to support your efforts."

McGovern and Sablan served together on the Nutrition Subcommittee in the 112th Congress. It was at that time that Sablan got the $32.5 million for the Marianas pilot program that has allowed benefits to rise and made more families eligible.

McGovern also co-sponsored Sablan's AYUDA Act in 2011, which was designed to bring the Marianas into SNAP.

"Whether it is through another stand-alone bill, or whether we just get more money for the Marianas pilot program in next year's appropriations," Sablan said. "I am not going to let those families, who are just now starting to get food assistance, lose that help.

"And I am not going to let benefits be cut back to the level they were before I got the extra $32.5 million in the Agricultural Act of 2014. I will find a way."

Benefits for a family of four on Saipan have gone from $444 to $944, because of Sablan's work. On Tinian, benefits climbed from $444 to $998, and on Rota from $444 to $1,150.

An additional 829 families are expected to begin getting food assistance on Oct. 1. ***(PR)***

BROWN AND CALDWELL SCHOLARSHIPS

Brown and Caldwell awarded five $1,000 scholarships to University of Guam pre-engineering and environmental science students last week. The scholarships were the fourth set in a five-year collaborative program between UOG and the engineering firm. To date, the firm has awarded $15,000 to UOG students pursuing degrees in the sciences.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

"A Tradition of Excellence!"

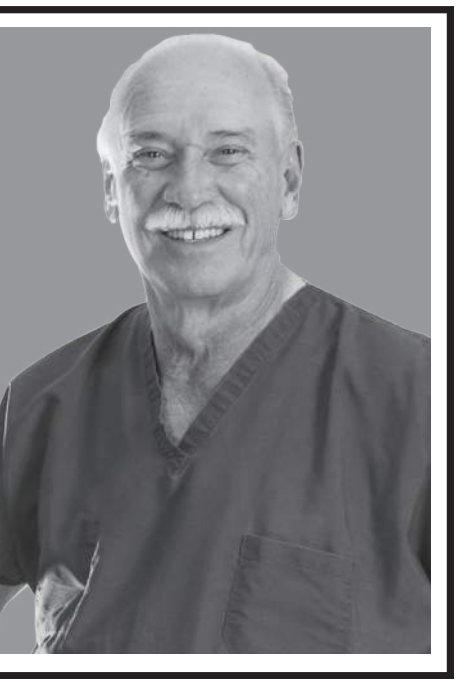
Dr. Dennis Williams, a renowned eye surgeon, continues the tradition of excellence at Marianas Eye Institute.

- Received a CNMI House Resolution, "for conducting the CNMI's first Corneal Transplant"
- Listed in "Best Doctors in America"
- Board Certified Ophthalmologist

Prior Experience:

- Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, USF
- Director of Corneal Transplant and Refractive Surgery St. Luke's Cataract and Laser Institute, Florida
- Board of Directors, American Board of Eye Surgery
- President, Cataract Teaching Foundation
- Instructor, American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery

We welcome Aetna, Self-pay, Staywell, Netcare, Calvo's, TakeCare, Medicaid, Medicare, Tricare, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and more!



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"Where Technology Meets Talent"

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CNMI DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
AMERICA'S SBDC CNMI
CDA COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

FREE Small Business Development Workshops

Introduction to Financial Statements

Wednesday, September 26, 2018

9:00am—11:00am
Location: Joeten Kiyu Public Library

Presented by:
David Burger, Certified Public Accountant
Burger • Comer • Magliari

Mr. Burger is a Certified Public Accountant in the Territory of Guam and in the CNMI, and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Association of Government Accountants and the Guam Society of CPAs.

Mr. Burger has served at all levels on a variety of audit, review, and compilation engagements. These engagements included hotels, wholesalers, retailers, construction companies, banks, credit unions, employee benefit plans, insurance companies, automobile dealers, bakeries, garment manufacturers, non-profit organizations and government agencies. The firm currently conducts over 80 audits annually.

He has also prepared eighteen business valuations and authored the chapter on "Business and Investment Climate" included in "An Economic Study for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands" released in October 1999, along with authoring an update to that study in 2007.

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Limited Seating. Register now at: pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com

For more information or to reserve your seats today, contact the CNMI SBDC at 670-664-3018 or visit www.pacificsbdc.com

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SIS' Michael Lee is named NMSC semifinalist

Michael Lee, a student at Saipan International School, has been selected as the CNMI's only National Merit Scholarship semifinalist in 2018.

Lee is tied for the first-place rank in his class and has been awarded with the distinction of AP Scholar with Distinction. This year, he is continuing his pursuit of academic excellence by attempting a rigorous college-preparatory course schedule, including four AP classes and self-studying for AP Computer Science. Additionally, Lee is the 2018-2019 Student Council president and vice president of SIS' Rotary Interact Club. He was on four CNMI Junior Statesmen of America scholars in 2018, attending a summer program at Princeton University.

Lee

Lee was among the approximately 16,000 semifinalists in the 64th annual National Merit Scholarship Program that were announced by officials of National Merit Scholarship Corp. on Sept. 12, 2018.

These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth more than $31 million that will be offered next spring.

To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the finalist level of competition.

Over 90 percent of the semifinalists are expected to attain finalist standing, and about half of the finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title.

NMSC, a not-for-profit organization, was established in 1955 to conduct the National Merit Scholarship Program. Scholarships are underwritten by NMSC with its own funds and by approximately 410 business organizations and higher education institutions. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Belated birthday greetings go out to our dad/grandpa, John Reyes, who celebrated his special birthday last Sept. 22. Thank you for your unconditional love, support, and encouragement. Love always your children and grandchildren.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to our brother, Davin C. Nekaifes. Your heart is so rich and you're full of kindness. May all your wishes come true and may the Lord shower you with more of His blessings. We love you! Greetings come from your family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

'OUR SENSE OF PLACE'

Precinct 2 forum now set for Oct 4

Christina "Tina" Sablan, who is running as an independent candidate for the House of Representatives Precinct 2, has announced that the community forum she is hosting, "Our Sense of Place," will now be held on Thursday, Oct. 4 at the Joeten Daidai Social Hall in Chalan Kanoa, next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral, starting at 5:30pm. The forum was rescheduled from its original date in September due to typhoon conditions that week.

"Our goal," Sablan said, "is to come up with a plan and set of priorities to guide our efforts as a community to revitalize the villages of Precinct 2, and especially Chalan Kanoa and Susupe."

Sablan holds a master's degree in urban and regional planning.

Sablan is partnering with mapping expert Robbie Greene to present maps of Precinct 2 and facilitate a discussion about the places that are important to people, and why.

Forum participants will be asked to identify the social, cultural, historic, environmental, and economic assets of the precinct, and places in need of cleanup, repair, or protection. This feedback will be used to create a tangible, public product that can help community members visualize their concerns and valued spaces, and make decisions.

Precinct 2 includes the villages of Chalan Kanoa, Susupe, Fina Sisu, As Lito, and As Perdido.

"The forum is free to attend and open to everyone—whether you live, work, operate a business, have family members or roots in Precinct 2, or simply have ideas to share about how we can make Precinct 2 a healthier, safer, more beautiful place," Sablan said. "All are welcome."

For more information or to RSVP, contact Sablan at 285-3935 or email tinasablan@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

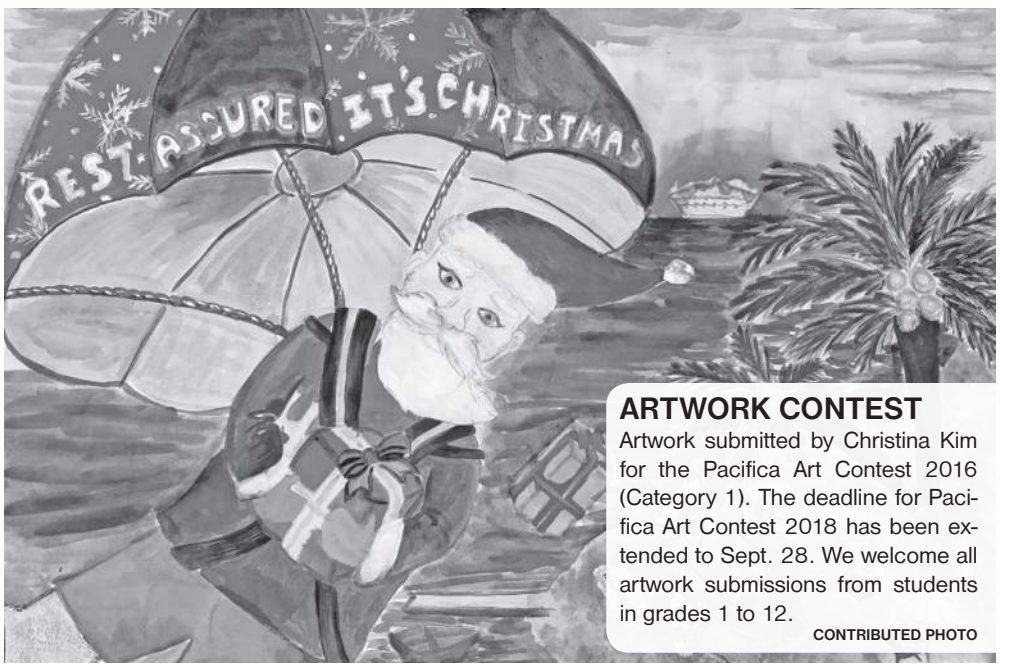
NOTICE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program

(September 24, 2018)

Pursuant to Section 5.3 of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's (NMHC) Section 8 Administrative Plan, this is to inform the general public that the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP) waiting-list open enrollment has reached its maximum number of applicants. Therefore, the HCVP waiting-list open enrollment will be closed effective September 28, 2018. Any applications submitted after September 28, 2018, will NOT be accepted.

NMHC Housing Specialists & Field Office Representatives will review the applications submitted on or before September 28, 2018, and formally contact applicants to schedule an eligibility appointment. For more information, please contact NMHC at telephone numbers 234-6866 or 234-9446 (Saipan), 433-9213 (Tinian), or 532-9410 (Rota).



ARTWORK CONTEST

Artwork submitted by Christina Kim for the Pacifica Art Contest 2016 (Category 1). The deadline for Pacifica Art Contest 2018 has been extended to Sept. 28. We welcome all artwork submissions from students in grades 1 to 12.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMONWEALTH LOTTERY COMMISSION

PUBLIC NOTICE

A Special Meeting of the Commonwealth Lottery Commission will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, September 24, 2017 at the Juan Sablan Memorial Building on Capitol Hill, Saipan. The public is invited to attend.

The following is the proposed agenda:

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum

III. Public Comment

IV. Adoption of Agenda

V. Adoption of Minutes

VI. Old Business

A. Amendments to Casino License Agreement (status)

VII. New Business

A. Amendments to Casino License Agreement

1. To allow to operate less than 4-5 Star Facility
2. To allow to open Phase Development in Stages

VIII. Executive Session

IX. Adjournment

For further information, please contact the Lottery Commission by telephone through the Office of the Finance Secretary at 664-1100.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

INVITATION FOR BID

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

Amendment No. 1

BID SUBMISSION DATE: Thursday, September 27, 2018 • TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2018-009

Ground Maintenance Services for NMHC's Properties in Saipan

Proposal packets will be available on **August 31, 2018**, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement regulations, NMIAC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A **Mandatory Pre-Bid conference** will be held at 1**0:00 a.m.** on ~~September 14, 2018~~ **September 17,2018**, at the NMHC Central Office Conference Room in Garapan, Saipan.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Acting Office Manager, at (670)234-6866/7689 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Aubry Hocog
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS	:	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0458**
THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE SERVICES GROUP, INC. Plaintiff, -v- DONALD CAMACHO, Defendant.	:	

TENTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on May 4, 2011, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot 001 C 60 (formerly part of Lot 001 C 56, which part of the Lot 001 C 26, which was part of original Lot 001 C 05, T.D. 697), situated in San Roque Village, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 C 12, the original of which was recorded 27 August 1999 as Document No. 99-2037 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 26, 2018, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Office of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

Dated, this 13th day of September, 2018:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office:
SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT,
2ND Floor Arrival Bldg.
PO BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP • 96950
Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/1
Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

AIRPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that the Board Airport Facilities Committee will be holding a special meeting on Tuesday, September 25, 2018, at 11:30 a.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom located in the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on the island of Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matter:
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda

II. Public Comment(s)

III. Item:
1. Airport Master Plans
   - A. Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
   - B. Tinian International Airport
   - C. Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport (Rota)

IV. Announcements

V. Executive Session

VI. Adjournment

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit will be imposed for oral testimony.

NMI crew traveled 8,000 miles to fight Calif. fires

WILLOWS, Calif.—A firefighting crew traveled 8,000 miles from Saipan to assist with firefighting efforts in Northern California this summer, and worked on both the Carr and the Delta Fires. Their deployment began on Aug. 6.

The firefighters from the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI) work as a wildland hand crew. They are certified as a Type 2 U. S. Forest Service crew. They are one of 540 such crews that apply their skills to firefighting each year across the United States, according to a spokesperson for the Mendocino National Forest.

When working on the Carr Fire, squad boss trainee Linus Mizutani said, "All we could see on both sides of us was burned area. It was huge!" He said more than 15 of their islands would have fit within the fire area.

CNMI crew came to Northern California in August 2018 to assist with fighting wildland fires.
U.S. FOREST SERVICE

At the Delta Fire the crew worked with the Mendocino Hotshots, who taught them more about new fire ignition techniques used during night burns to improve containment lines.

Mizutani said, "It's one thing to read about it in books or watch it on YouTube, but feeling and smelling it, you won't forget that."

He said now they will go home and share the experiences and lessons learned with other firefighters who were not able to make the trip to Northern California.

The crew consists of firefighters from Saipan, Tinian and Rota. Sixtus Aquino, Saturnino Kaipat and Linus Mizutani all served in leadership roles as squad bosses or Type 1 firefighters. Squad bosses supervise up to six firefighters each.

Marlon Garde, Shelwyn Taisacan, Jamaal Mresbang, Mizutani and Kaipat also worked as sawyers on the fires, after completing a wildland power saws course offered by the Mendocino National Forest.

Other NCMI firefighters on the crew were Kyoshi Kileleman, Mathew Dala Cruz, Joseph Sablan, Raccine Hizon, Lucio Kalen, Sammy Litulumar, Matthew Dueans and Stanley Santos.

Most of the crew has returned home to the Marianas. Garde, Kalen and Taisacan are working the rest of the 2018 fire season at the Los Padres National Forest.

The group received basic wildland firefighter training earlier this year in the islands under the U.S. Forest Service's Cooperative Fire Program. The mission is to work with Pacific Island partners in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Hawaii, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, American Samoa, and the Federated States of Micronesia to "increase capacity in the fire community," according to Forest Service officials.

Several mentors assisted the visiting fire crew this summer, including Crew Boss trainees Jeremy Lander, Mark Walls and James Blass. Other mentors included Crew Bosses Ricky Auspiro, Nate Goodchild, Lee Ibarra, Andy Reyes, Edgar Valencia, Chris Mallek and Jeremy Vance.

The crew from the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI) were able to reunited with the Feather River Hotshots, a firefighting elite group that they had worked with before. They also were able to work with firefighter David Palacios, who hails from the Marianas, and is currently working as a Northen California firefighter.

Last summer a crew came out from the CNMI to work on the Modoc and Six Rivers National Forests. ***(http://www.actionnewsnow.com)***

Military training in Agat Bay, FDM, W-517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training in the vicinity of Agat Bay on Sept. 25-26 from 4pm to 10pm.

The military will also conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- Sept. 24, from 12:01am to 11:59pm
- Sept. 25, from 11am to 11pm
- Sept. 26, from 4:30-10:30pm
- Sept. 27, from 11am to 10:30pm
- Sept. 28, from 10am to 11pm
- Sept. 30, from 8am to 11:59pm

Training will also take place Warning Area 517 on Sept. 27-28, from 8am to 5pm.

These types of trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training.

It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Banks are open for public use. W-517 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. ***(PR)***

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2375 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP18-GOV-143

Generator System Supply and Installation – Department of Finance

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors to supply and install a generator for the Department of Finance, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

The project package will be available beginning September 10, 2018 at the Governor's CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. A pre-proposal meeting will be held at the project site adjacent to the Division of Finance and Accounting at 10:00 a.m. on September 14, 2018.

Questions about this request for proposal shall be addressed to the Capital Improvement Office attn.: Nerissa Benavente, in writing via e-mail: nerissa.cip@gmail.com or facsimile (670) 664-2408 **no later than 4:30 p.m., ChST, September 20, 2018.**

The total proposal length shall not exceed 15 pages in length. A contractor that submits a proposal as a prime contractor cannot also submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, a company may be included in multiple proposals by different contractors.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1.	Qualifications and experience on similar projects	30%
2.	Work load and resources to accomplish work	10%
3.	Project Approach & Schedule	10%
4.	Cost	50%
	TOTAL:	**100%**

Performance time for completion of this project is 120 calendar days upon issuance of notice to proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 120 calendar days, the contract price and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top 3 ranked contractors. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified contractor to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The successful proposers will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Proposals must be sealed and marked RFP18-GOV-143 Generator System Supply and Installation – Department of Finance. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, September 28, 2018. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of intent to propose. Notices of intent to propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., ChST, September 28, 2018 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cnmidof.net.

For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, September 28, 2018 and mailed to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply at P.O. Box 510008 CK, Saipan MP, 96950 and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than the close of business on October 4, 2018. Failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

BREACH OF ETHICAL STANDARDS

(To be part of Solicitation for quotes, ITBs and RFPs)

- ***Gratuities.*** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefor. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(a).
- ***Kickbacks.*** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of subcontractor or order. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(b).
- ***Contingent Fees.*** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-730.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a proposal if in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Victor B. Hocog
Acting Governor

Herman S. Sablan
Director of Procurement and Supply

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
BOARD OF REGENTS REGULAR MEETING
September 27, 2018 - 10:00am
BOR Conference Room, Saipan Campus

AGENDA

I. Call Meeting to Order
- a. Roll Call
- b. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- c. Review and Adoption of Minutes
  1. June 22, 2018 (Regular Meeting)
  2. August 17, 2018 (Special Meeting)

II. Public Comment Period: Individuals may verbally testify on items on the agenda during the Public Comment Period. Testifiers are requested to limit their testimony to five (5) minutes. Written testimony is also accepted.

III. Reports and Action from Standing Committees
- a. Finance Committee
- b. Audit Committee
- c. Human Resources Committee
- d. Regent Nominating Committee
- e. Program Committee

IV. Old Business
- a. BOR Resolution 18-2 (Credit/Debit Card)
- b. Employee Classification and Compensation Plan

V. New Business
- a. FY 2019 Operations Budget
- b. Presidential Search
- c. BOR Resolution No. 2018-03 (Bank Signatures)

VI. NMC Executive Reports
- a. Interim President's Report
  1. Program Feature: NMC Criminal Justice Program
  2. Accreditation Update
  3. Legislative Update

VII. Board Meeting Assessment

VIII. Miscellaneous Items

IX. Executive Session (At any time during the scheduled meeting of the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential)
- a. Legal Matters
- b. Personnel Matters

X. Upcoming Board Activities
- a. Upcoming Events / Activities

XI. Adjournment

/s/ Charles V. Cepeda
BOR Chairperson

Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

A prompt investigation, then a vote on Kavanaugh

Federal Judge Brett Kavanaugh was on the Republican-smoothed glide path to becoming Justice Kavanaugh of the Supreme Court. Then his confirmation process was upended by a sexual assault allegation dating to his junior year of high school. The issue now is how to handle a serious accusation about a long-ago incident in a politically charged atmosphere.

Christine Blasey Ford, a professor in California, was 15 years old when she says Kavanaugh, then 17, sexually assaulted her at a Maryland party in the summer of 1982. Kavanaugh denies the allegation.

What occurred 36 years ago? It's the responsible question to ask. Ford says she was traumatized by the incident. If it happened and Kavanaugh won't admit it, he fails the character test at the heart of the confirmation process and the U.S. Senate should not seat him on the high court. But Kavanaugh says he has "never done anything like what the accuser describes—to her or to anyone."

Ford's accusations are being taken seriously, and deservedly so. It's not appropriate to dismiss such behavior as a youthful indiscretion, and Kavanaugh isn't using that excuse. Like Ford, he deserves a fair hearing. His reputation is at stake, as is a possible job promotion.

The solution for senators seems straightforward: The FBI should immediately investigate Ford's account of what happened at the party. The Judiciary Committee should hear from Kavanaugh, Ford and any other pertinent witnesses. With all available information on the table, the committee should proceed with a confirmation vote, potentially followed by a full Senate vote.

Politics complicates that scenario. But let's not get caught up in either party's calculus. Suffice to say Republicans, with a slim Senate majority and control of the committee, want to get Kavanaugh seated on the court—and soon. Democrats want to defeat Kavanaugh. They also could benefit by delaying the process past November's election when—who knows?—maybe they wrest Senate control.

The FBI's role would not be to conduct a criminal investigation; Ford's allegations don't involve a federal crime. Rather, the FBI would reopen its background check on Kavanaugh. Ron Hosko, a former assistant director of the FBI, told several news organizations the White House has the power to direct the FBI to act. Agents would interview Kavanaugh and Ford, presumably under penalty of perjury. The agency would seek other witnesses and then turn over that information to the Senate without making judgments about witness credibility.

There were only so many people at that party or in Kavanaugh's and Ford's circles of friends. It seems likely most of those people already know that their recollections are of sudden interest to the nation. The investigation shouldn't take long to complete. "There would be a sense of urgency about this," Hosko told CBS News. "They could do that

See KAVANAUGH on Next Page

This is the question we should be asking about Brett Kavanaugh

By ERIC ZORN
Chicago Tribune

What's your confidence level in the accuracy of Christine Blasey Ford's allegation that U.S. Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh sexually attacked her when she was 15 and he was 17 in the early 1980s?

From zero—she's making it all up or is delusional—to 100—her account would match perfectly with a video recording of the event, had one been made—I'm at about 95.

The story she tells is that Kavanagh and his friend Mark Judge, both highly intoxicated, pulled her into a bedroom during a party, and that Kavanaugh pinned her down, groped her, tried to remove her bathing suit and, when she tried to yell for help, covered her mouth with his hand. She escaped into a bathroom and locked the door only after Judge jumped into the action and sent all three sprawling.

Yes, some details are missing—Ford can't remember the date and location of the party, for instance. And others may be inaccurate—researchers have found that human memory is far from perfect, even when recalling events that at the time seem indelible.

But the ring of truth here is more like a gong: Her therapist has notes that show Ford talked about the incident six years ago. She began circulating her story anonymously before President Donald Trump nominated Kavanaugh and his was just a name on the short list. She took and passed a (legally inadmissible) polygraph exam. She placed Judge in the room, even though she had to believe that Judge would back up his friend.

Ford's mortified silence at the time, her description of the traumatic effects of the incident on her and her hesitation in coming forward also suggest to me that her account is genuine.

True, no other women have yet come forward to make similar claims, but given the threatening hell that Ford's life has become in the past week and given the inevitability that it will never get back to normal, who would expect them to?

What are the chances that Kavanaugh's categorical denials are accurate? That nothing like this ever happened? That this is a dreadful case of mistaken identity, a vicious partisan ploy or that Ford—a respected academic—is a crackpot? Do the math. Five percent.

I try to set politics aside when assessing claims like this. Sure, I think Kavanaugh will be disastrously conservative in his rulings, but I'm under no illusion that, if he's forced to step aside, the nominee that takes his place will be even a smidge more liberal. And if Kavanaugh were to the left of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, I'd still be 95 percent sure Ford is telling the truth.

And I'd still be advocating for as thorough an FBI investigation as possible into her claims to help senators rule on the critical question.

And that question is not what Brett Kavanaugh did in the early 1980s.

I've consistently argued over the years that it's unfair and inconsistent for our culture to treat people under 18 as adults when it comes to legal culpability, but as children when it comes to rights and privileges.

Experience and research show that young brains aren't fully formed and teenagers often lack the judgment, maturity, temperament and perspective we expect of adults.

"From a moral standpoint it would be misguided to equate the failings of a minor with those of an adult, for a greater possibility exists that a minor's character deficiencies will be reformed.

"Indeed, the relevance of youth as a mitigating factor derives from the fact that the signature qualities of youth are transient; as individuals mature, the impetuousness and recklessness that may dominate in younger years can subside."

That was Anthony Kennedy, the retiring justice whose vacancy Kavanaugh hopes to fill, writing a 2005 Supreme Court opinion in a case involving a 17-year-old defendant.

We throw away too many young lives too easily in our quest for vengeance. Kavanaugh should have been punished at the time if he did what Ford says he did at that party, but he should not have had his entire life derailed.

The question we should be asking is what Brett Kavanaugh is doing in 2018.

If he's lying to us, declining to show remorse or to apologize for a terrible thing he did long ago, that would disqualify him morally from a lifetime appointment to one of the most powerful jobs in the nation.

Lying pales next to the alleged original offense, of course. But the lie, if it is a lie, renews and refreshes that offense, making it inarguably relevant to the decision that senators must make about Kavanaugh's nomination.

How sure do they have to be that the next Supreme Court justice is an honest man?

Even 95 percent sure sounds low, given how much Kavanaugh stands to shape our laws and our culture.

And right now, he ain't even close.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Trump and Xi are destined to divorce

In their own individual ways, the leaders of the U.S. and China are products of a moment when free-market capitalism imploded and Chinese-style "state capitalism" shored up the global economy. The 2008 financial crisis helped make both Donald Trump and Xi Jinping. What observers don't yet seem to appreciate is how difficult that makes it for them to resolve their spiraling trade war.

By ANDREW BROWNE
Bloomberg News

Andrew Browne is the editorial director of the Bloomberg New Economy Forum*. Prior to joining* Bloomberg*, he was China editor, senior correspondent and columnist for the* Wall Street Journal.

Financial markets wobble every time Trump imposes new tariffs on China, such as the 10 percent levy on $200 billion in imports he announced earlier this week, and then perk up on hopes of talks, as though this was a classic tit-for-tat trade war. It's far from that. White House complaints about lopsided trade and Chinese theft of intellectual property are the pretext for a wider struggle. What we're seeing are the opening stages of a strategic competition spurred by a sense of vulnerability in the U.S. and, in China, of national destiny.

This roots of this confrontation lie in the 2008 collapse. The crisis shaped the nationalist impulses of both Trump and Xi, while energizing their respective bases. The U.S. response—the emergency decision to bail out Wall Street and leave workers to fend for themselves—pretty much ensured that median wages wouldn't budge for a decade. Post-crisis salary gains have disproportionately accrued to the top 1 percent on Wall Street and in Silicon Valley.

Trump deftly exploited the distress this caused blue-collar and middle-class Americans to pave his way to the White House. "Make America Great Again" was born of defeat.

For his part, Xi manipulated, with equal finesse, the sense of self-assuredness that came over China after it witnessed first the humbling of Western capitalism, then liberal democracy buckling to the forces of populism and nativism. Xi's signature "China Dream" gave expression to this triumphant nationalism. From the vantage point of Communist Party headquarters, there was no longer any need for caution in dealing with a West suspicious of Chinese intentions; Deng Xiaoping's prudent advice to "bide our time and hide our capabilities" could be safely discarded. China's moment had arrived.

Confidence morphed into assertiveness, and then into recklessness. Did Xi and his advisers really imagine that they'd face no pushback to the "Made in China 2025" industrial policy that has, as its explicit goal, the mercantilist objective of taking over swaths of advanced technology through subsidies and other incentives to state champions? Or that smaller neighbors would be so grateful for infrastructure supplied under Xi's trillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative they'd indefinitely overlook some of its more predatory terms and conditions? It took Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, beyond caring about diplomatic niceties at the age of 93, to warn about a "new version of colonialism" on a visit to Beijing.

Some of Xi's aides are trying to recalibrate—for instance, by soft-pedaling Made in China 2025 in the state-run media. But this is optics. Neither Trump nor Xi can afford to back down substantively.

The link between stagnating incomes and protectionism was clear enough even before the 2008 crisis, a calamity for millions of working-class Americans that turned their frustrations into a full-scale revolt against globalization. Trump channels that anger, and in the absence of measures to rebuild the ladder of prosperity—proposals include massive investment in childhood education and worker reskilling—China has become a useful whipping boy. Under Trump, China has gone from economic threat to "strategic competitor." Trade is the leading edge of resistance.

For their part, Chinese leaders have lost hope of a quick trade deal from a U.S. president they pegged, wrongly, as a pragmatic businessman. Instead, they now interpret his moves as "containment"—and they're not far off the mark. Though this is not exactly a replay of the Cold War—for one, the two economies are deeply entwined—trade hostilities infect just about every area of the relationship, from the military and security realms to scientific and technological collaboration.

Xi himself views "state capitalism" as a perfectly credible path and he won't dismantle the system on Trump's orders. As Harvard economist Dani Rodrik argues, China has succeeded all these years precisely because it has ignored Western economic prescriptions. Moreover, the advent of artificial intelligence, machine learning and other transformative technologies powered by data—which China has in super-abundance—has convinced Chinese leaders that their country's fortunes are about to rise further even if the trade war slows growth in the short term.

World-shaking upheavals such as these often take decades to play out. It's too early to say whether the U.S. and other Western countries can reinvigorate free markets and liberal democracy by forging a new social contract between capital and labor. Nor can anyone predict with confidence whether China will become the first major economy to break into the ranks of rich nations without first adopting liberal economics and pluralistic politics.

The best the U.S. and China can probably hope for in the meantime is some form of peaceful-if-awkward coexistence. A Cold War-style relationship would imply at least a limited decoupling of the world's two biggest economies, with the U.S. and China agreeing to cooperate where possible on commercial matters and to limit the scope of their strategic competition. If they can't work out a managed separation of this kind, the legacy of 2008 may well be a hard split, with Trump and Xi ripping apart the global economy.

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and poet living on Tinian who taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

Free Tickets to Heart Attack City

Beyond BBQ lies a world of fats, salt, and plenty of sugars
some folks love to eat this and some folks love to eat that
fried fish and pork chops, French fries, salty veggie burgers
deep fried Twinkies, deep fried turkey, gobs of greasy fat
sweet and sour candies, super salty hot spicy corn snacks
high fructose corn syrup in food and many fruity soft drinks
candy bars named for planets and stars and Cracker Jacks
chewy gooey candies, cavities on the way the dentist thinks
then there are all kinds of oils: natural, extracted, artificial
plenty of fats in meat and cheese or fried food soaking in it
looking on the labels for content information semi official
fattening drinks and foods in our mouth minute by minute
moderate consumption of all the above no reason for pity
gluttonous consumption gives free tickets to Heart Attack City.

Wedding Day for an Empress of Ice Cream

Please tell Jellyroll Baker to get over here in a hurry
start kneading some dough for tarts, donuts, and pies.
the wedding is tomorrow morning and we need curry
dumplings and gravy with fricasseed chicken thighs.
the prince and the princess just out of their teens know
that of all summer fruits cold watermelon is the Queen.
we need something much cooler as the sidewalks steam
to make the princess become an Empress of Ice Cream
her father is an Emperor from Flatbush, her sweet mother
a 'Bronx cheer' Queen. Padre Popsicle will marry them
sister is the bridesmaid, the best man is his older brother
licking soft cones eating banana splits at the Royal Dairy
in Jellyroll Baker's midsummer night dream the fairy
made princess an Empress of Ice Cream flavored cherry.

KAVANAUGH

From Page 10

tonight, assuming you have cooperative witnesses." It's worth remembering that in 1991, the FBI required just three days to investigate Anita Hill's sexual harassment allegations against then-Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas.

The Republicans want to hold a hearing on this matter. Kavanaugh says he's willing to testify. Ford's attorneys said Thursday that she is prepared to testify next week. They said it's her "preference" that a "full investigation" take place before her testimony. Assuming the White House deploys the FBI, the agency should be able to complete its task in time. If it takes a bit longer, so be it. The goal is for senators to possess all available evidence about what happened that night, and then cast their votes for or against Kavanaugh.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

3 CNMI issues

Three things come in my mind whenever I think about the problems that Saipan is going through: Housing, vandalism, and littering. People need to pay attention to these problems because these problems could really ruin our island.

According to the data collected in the beginning of the year, there are 138 homeless individuals on Saipan alone, 99 are adults and 39 children. There is a homeless man around San Antonio village, I often see him at Afetna Market across the San Antonio basketball court. I feel really bad for him because he is always alone and people would walk by him as if he is a stray dog. I wonder where these people go when Mother Nature calls. I live in my parents' house but I still get so scared of typhoons. Just imagine the situation of those homeless people. This problem bothers me. I don't want any of my loved ones to go through this.

Vandalism is also one of the problems on Saipan. We need to pay attention to this problem because this is going to cost us a lot of money. I hate seeing nice pavilions with profanities, names, and gang names written all over them. Imagine going to the beach with your younger siblings. It would not be nice if they start reading those bad words written all over the pavilions. Bus shelters are also being vandalized by people, betel nut stains all over the floor, and some people would even piss there. If we do not pay attention to this, we are letting our youth know that it is okay to do this. They will think vandalizing is okay and we don't want that to happen. I went to the beach last summer with my friends. One of my friends brought his little brother with him. We decided to hang out at the nearby pavilion. My friend's younger brother started reading out the words written on the walls. Later that day, I heard him using that bad word while playing with my little sister and some other kids. It saddens me to know that kids are learning bad stuff because of vandalism.

Littering is another issue we have on Saipan. I am a member of the 670 Sonics Basketball Club. We used to do beach cleanups on the weekends. We need to do something about littering, considering that Saipan depends on tourists. I have seen beer cans, plastics, cigarette butts, spit bottles, and dead animals on our beaches. It is really disappointing to see how much trash our beaches contain. However, it was satisfying being able to help our community by beautifying our beaches. I challenge each and every one of you to do the same.

I believe that together we can solve these problems. We could do fundraising events so that we could gather money to support the homeless people on Saipan. The government could help us provide housing for them as well. The best thing we could do to prevent vandalism is to have a guard watch over our pavilions. We could also have cameras installed on the electrical posts so that we could see who vandalizes our bus shelters and pavilions. A cheap chemical that will make it a lot easier to erase writings on walls would be very helpful as well. We could prevent littering by having beach cleanups every weekends. I believe that there is a solution to every problem.

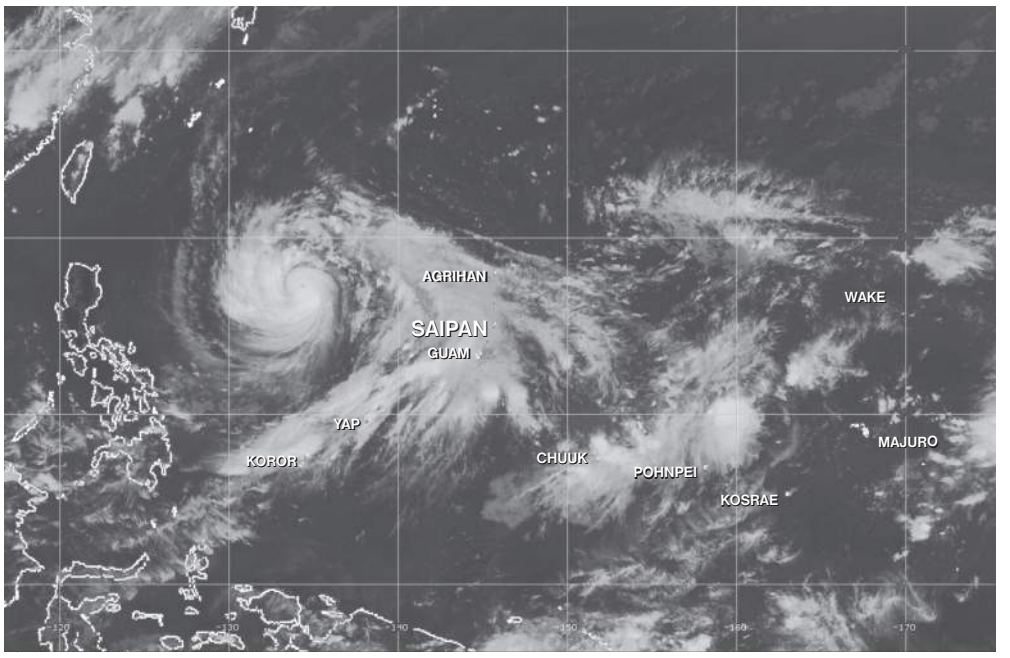
Rafael Ordona
San Antonio, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲85° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:07 AM, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2018

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Models continue to show a trough extending eastward into the Marianas waters from distant TS Trami, keeping scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in the region a few more days. Have scaled the numerous showers back to scattered for Monday night through Wednesday night, as models no longer show any reason to expect such widespread coverage. Likewise, while locally heavy showers are still possible, flash flooding is no longer a threat, and the flash flood watch has been allowed to expire.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	55° / 52°
Beijing	Sunny	77° / 54°
Hong Kong	Rain	84° / 79°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
London	Mostly Sunny	59° / 41°
Los Angeles	Sunny	82° / 63°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	61° / 39°
Miami	Thunderstorms	89° / 79°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	68° / 63°
Osaka	Rain	73° / 66°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	63° / 43°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	73° / 63°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	81° / 63°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	88° / 70°
San Francisco	Sunny	69° / 53°
Seoul	Sunny	72° / 54°
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	77° / 66°
Washington, DC	Showers	69° / 66°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:19 AM	LOW TIDE	0.71
6:47 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.81
1:28 PM	LOW TIDE	0.18
7:41 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.87

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:11 PM
Tuesday	6:06 AM	6:11 PM
Wednesday	6:06 AM	6:10 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:09 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:08 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	5:08 AM	5:49 PM
Tuesday	-	5:57 AM	6:28 PM
Wednesday	-	6:47 AM	7:08 PM
Thursday	-	7:38 AM	7:49 PM
Friday	-	8:30 AM	8:32 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 6, 2018

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	8:45am	9:30am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA117	7:00am	7:45am	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Drizzle fails to dampen spirit of cultural festival

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A near-constant drizzle last Saturday failed to dampen the enthusiasm of the participants and the crowd that trooped to the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan to enjoy the 4th Annual International Festival of Cultures.

For the first time, representatives of Africa on Saipan joined the festival that featured a parade, a cultural fashion show, live entertainment, ethnic food, and arts and crafts.

Sophia Kuria wears a traditional attire during Saturday's kickoff of the two-day 4th Annual International Festival of Cultures at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan. Kuria, who is originally from Kenya, organized the Africa group, which participated for the first time in the event. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The festival was supposed to start Friday and be a three-day event, but the Marianas Visitors Authority cancelled the Friday opening due to bad weather. This year, MVA planned to hold the festival from Friday to Saturday. Past festivals took place every Saturday in September.

This year's participants are from the Marianas, South Korea, Bangladesh, Federated States of Micronesia, Hawaii, Japan, Palau, the Marshall Islands, the Philippines, South Pacific-American Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, and Kenya.

The festival started with the parade, in which participants in ethnic attire walked from the Carolinian Affairs Office down to Paseo de Marianas at 5pm.

After the parade, participants walked the catwalk to display their cultural attire on the stage at the Paseo de Marianas.

The Africa group members display traditional attire from Kenya, Ghana, and Uganda during the fashion show Saturday held at the 4th Annual International Festival of Cultures. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Three children in Philippine traditional dress face the audience on the stage during Saturday night's cultural fashion show. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The South Korean community had the most number of participants during the cultural fashion show Saturday night at the 4th Annual International Festival of Cultures. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Before the fashion show, Himawari Kenbu-kan kendo students, under their teacher Masanori Takahashi, demonstrated kendo martial arts. Itsuro Hosoda is the kendo master who has promoted kendo in the CNMI for over 10 years.

After the fashion show, there were cultural songs and dances performed by a cultural group from Marianas High School and participants from the American Samoa/ Tonga, Fiji, Korea community, Africa, and Carolinian warriors.

MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion said that 11 cultural groups took part in the festival.

Rather than canceling the opening of the festival again Saturday because of rain, MVA decided to go ahead and continue the festival, Concepcion said.

As of press time last night, Sunday, the last day of the festival was still ongoing.

Despite the drizzle during the parade and fashion show last Saturday, many residents as well as tourists still watched the festival.

Concepcion said that seeing many tourists enjoying the different cultural attires and food and crafts made the event more festive. "We're very, very happy with the turnout."

Sophia Kuria, a teacher and a native of Kenya who arrived on Saipan from Florida three years ago, formed the Africa group on Saipan. Kuria said her Samoan friends invited her to represent Africa at the festival.

"Because I'm from Africa I want to be part of [the festival], I went around and collected everybody from the CNMI who have an African background. And here we are," said Kuria.

She said it took her only a month to form the group, which she called African Rising, with the help of her Samoan friends.

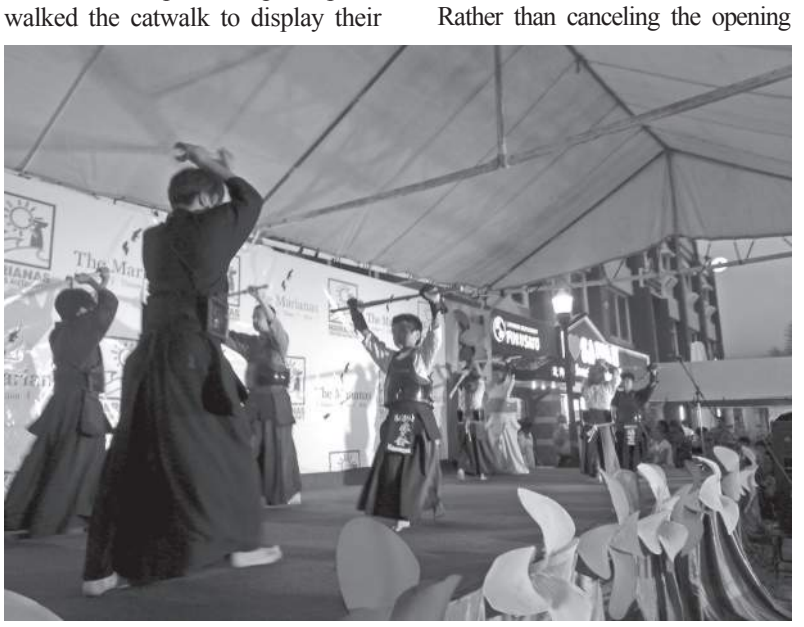
"They did a good job," she said, referring to their performance in the fashion show representing the countries of Kenya, Ghana, and Uganda.

Guma' Simiyan Manaina-Ta founder Luis John Castro said in their group 21 children also participated. It was raining before the parade, but fortunately, "Mother Nature decided to hold off just a little bit so everything was pretty good."

He said their group showcases the different facets of Mariana Islands history. "We do have the pre-Spanish arrival. There's also the colonial period," Castro said.

MVA community projects assistant Demalynn Pagarao said it was drizzling but nine cultural groups were eager to do the parade so they move on even with the rain.

"It was good. We were moving faster that we were supposed to because of the rain. People walked under the umbrellas on the side of the road," said Pagarao as she thanked the Department of Public Safety for helping them with the traffic flow.



Students of the Himawari Kenbukan under their teacher Masanori Takahashi demonstrate kendo before the start of the cultural fashion show Saturday night at the 4th Annual International Festival Cultures. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Luis John Castro's Guma' Simiyan Manaina-ta members display the Chamorro traditional dress at the cultural fashion show. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Luis John Castro and the Guma' Simiyan Manaina-ta members dressed in traditional Chamorro garb gather for a photo after the parade of cultures Saturday as part of the two-day 4th Annual International Festival Cultures. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Business

Congress takes aim at shrinking seats, legroom on airplanes

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Aviation Administration would be required to set new minimum requirements for seats on airplanes under legislation to be considered in the House this week, possibly giving passengers a break from ever-shrinking legroom and cramped quarters.

The regulation of seat width and legroom is part of a five-year extension of federal aviation programs announced early Saturday by Republican and Democratic leaders of the House and Senate committees that oversee the nation's air travel.

Congress faces a Sept. 30 deadline to keep FAA programs running. The Senate will also need to take up the bill this week or both chambers will need to pass a short-term extension.

The bill would prohibit the involuntary bumping of passengers who have already boarded a plane. But in a nod to the power of the commercial airliners, lawmakers declined to include language that would have prohibited airlines from imposing fees deemed "not reasonable and proportional."

Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson of Florida said lawmakers from both chambers agreed it was time to take action on "ever-shrinking seats."

"Relief could soon be on the way for weary airline passengers facing smaller and smaller seats," Nelson said.

In July, the FAA rejected the idea of setting minimum standards for airlines seats and legroom as a safety measure. But Congress appears determined to require the FAA to do so.

The room between rows—measured from a point on one seat to the same point on the seat in the next row—has been shrinking for many years as airlines squeeze more seats onto their planes. It was once commonly 34 or 35 inches, and is now less than 30 inches on some planes.

Lawmakers also included several provisions to address concerns about increased airport noise levels caused by new flight paths. The bill would require the FAA to study the potential health impacts of flight noise and the feasibility of amending existing departure procedures.

The bill would also mandate that flight attendants get a minimum of 10 hours of rest between their work shifts and require airlines to communicate better with customers during mass flight cancellations and groundings.

Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., chairman of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, said he expects the House and Senate to move quickly to send the bill to the president's desk.

AP

In this Jan. 26, 2016, file photo, economy class seating is shown on a new United Airlines Boeing 787-9 undergoing final configuration and maintenance work at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport in Seattle.

Hong Kong opens high-speed rail link with mainland China

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong on Saturday opened a new high-speed rail link to inland China that will vastly decrease travel times but also raises concerns about Beijing's creeping influence over the semi-autonomous Chinese region.

Costing upward of $10 billion and taking more than eight years to build, the system aims to transport more than 80,000 passengers daily between the Asian financial center of 7 million people and the neighboring manufacturing hub of Guangdong province.

The train travels the 26 kilometers (16 miles) through Hong Kong to Shenzhen across the border in China in just 14 minutes, down from about 1 hour currently. The through-train to Guangdong's capital Guangzhou will take just over half an hour, about 90 minutes faster than current service.

Once across the border, passengers can link up with Chinese sprawling nationwide high-speed rail network serving more than 44 destinations, including Shanghai, Beijing and the western city of Xi'an.

Passengers will clear Chinese immigration at the line's newly built West Kowloon terminus, the source of major legal controversy when it was revealed that mainland Chinese law would apply within roughly one-quarter of the station's area.

Some opposition lawmakers argued the move would be a violation of the Basic Law, Hong Kong's mini-constitution under which it retained its own legal system and civil liberties after reverting from British to Chinese rule in 1997. That guarantees Hong Kong the right to maintain rights such as freedom of speech and assembly—which are routinely violated on the mainland—until 2047. Legal matters related to defense, foreign affairs and national security fall under Beijing purview.

However, Beijing's tight control over the city's politics and a continuing crackdown on politicians calling for greater economy and democratic reforms have spurred worries about an erosion of Hong Kong's remaining autonomy.

The Hong Kong legislature's passage in June of the plan to allow Chinese law to apply at the railway terminus was a significant moment for the opposition, coming four years after mass street protests demanding reforms fizzled out amid Beijing's intransigence. Pro-democracy legislators have been expelled and charges brought against more than 100 protesters.

Supporters of the provision, including the territory's Beijing-backed Chief Executive Carrie Lam, defended it as promoting speed and convenience.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

UK's Labour party ponders supporting new Brexit referendum

LONDON (AP)—Britain's Labour Party is facing a huge choice at its annual conference—whether to back a new referendum that could halt the country's impending departure from the European Union. Support from the main opposition party would be a major boost to campaigners for a second vote on Brexit. Ever since Britain voted in 2016 to leave the EU, Labour has said it will respect the result. Now, with divorce negotiations with the EU stuck and Britain due to leave in March, many members think the party must change its course. More than 100 local Labour associations have submitted motions to the conference, which starts Sunday, urging a new vote. Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn told the Sunday Mirror newspaper if the party "makes a decision I will not walk away from it."

Rising oil prices haven't hurt the US economy so far

DALLAS (AP)—America's rediscovered prowess in oil production is shaking up old notions about the impact of higher crude prices on the U.S. economy. It has long been conventional wisdom that rising oil prices hurt the economy by forcing consumers to spend more on gasoline and heating their homes, leaving less for other things. Presumably that kind of run-up would slow the U.S. economy. Instead, the economy grew at its fastest rate in nearly four years during the April-through-June quarter. President Donald Trump appears plainly worried about rising oil prices just a few weeks before midterm elections that will decide which party controls the House and Senate. "We protect the countries of the Middle East, they would not be safe for very long without us, and yet they continue to push for higher and higher oil prices!" Trump tweeted on Thursday. "We will remember. The OPEC monopoly must get prices down now!"

Oregon cancels pot grower's license

BEND, Ore. (AP)—Oregon's marijuana regulators have canceled the license of a grower whose operation was linked to a butane honey oil explosion that burned two people. The Bulletin reports the Oregon Liquor Control Commission announced Friday that High Cascade Farms will have its recreational marijuana producer license canceled for 13 violations. Seven of the 13 violations relate to misrepresentation in the statewide database used to track marijuana plants and seeds. In one instance, someone at the farm—using an account tied to an employee—reported two marijuana plants as destroyed because of pests. But the commission says those plant tags were recovered from the scene of a butane honey oil explosion March 18 at a Bend duplex. Charles Ringo, who is listed as president and secretary of High Cascade's holding company, Byzantium Corp., couldn't be reached for comment Friday.

Nation

US considers limit on green cards for immigrants on benefits

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The Trump administration has proposed rules that could deny green cards to immigrants if they use Medicaid, food stamps, housing vouchers and other forms of public assistance.

Federal law already requires those seeking green cards and to prove they will not be a burden — or "public charge" — but the new rules detail a broad range of programs that could disqualify them.

The Department of Homeland Security said Saturday that current and past receipt of certain public benefits above thresholds would be considered "a heavily weighed negative factor" in granting green cards as well as temporary stays.

The proposal "will clearly define long-standing law to ensure that those seeking to enter and remain in the United States either temporarily or permanently can support themselves financially and will not be reliant on public benefits," the department said.

The 447-page proposal published on the department's website will appear in the Federal Register "in the coming weeks," triggering a 60-day public comment period before it takes effect.

AP
In this Dec. 10, 2015, file photo, pedestrians crossing from Mexico into the United States at the Otay Mesa Port of Entry wait in line in San Diego.

Coming less than seven weeks before midterm elections, the announcement could help galvanize voters who have backed or opposed Trump's broad crackdown on legal and illegal immigration.

Immigrant advocacy groups said people may avoid or withdraw from public aid programs even at the risk of losing shelter and suffering deteriorating health because they worry they will be denied visas.

Marielena Hincapié, executive director of the National Immigration Law Center, said the proposal was "an inhumane attack on the health and wellbeing of so many families and communities across the country."

"How you contribute to your community — and not what you look like or the contents of your wallet — should be what matters most," she said. "This proposed rule does the opposite and makes clear that the Trump administration continues to prioritize money over family unity by ensuring that only the wealthiest can afford to build a future in this country."

Potentially disqualifying benefits include Medicare Part D prescription drugs, Medicaid with some exceptions for emergency services and disability services related to education, food stamps and Section 8 housing vouchers.

Judge: California child can take cannabis drug to school

SANTA ROSA, Calif. (AP)—A California kindergartner can keep bringing a cannabis-based drug used for emergency treatment of a rare form of epilepsy to her public school, a judge ruled Friday.

The Santa Rosa Press-Democrat reported that a judge sided with the family of 5-year-old Brooke Adams.

The Rincon Valley Union School District in Santa Rosa sought to ban the ointment from school grounds because it contains the active ingredient in marijuana.

Authorities argued that allowing Brooke to use the drug at school violated state and federal laws barring medical marijuana on school grounds.

Medical marijuana use in private with a doctor's recommendation is legal in California.

A judge's temporary order permitted Brooke to start school in August while the district's objections were considered. A nurse accompanies Brooke to school and has had to apply the oil three times to treat seizures.

Judge Charles Marson made the order permanent on Friday. Marson is a judge in the state office of Administrative Hearings' Special Education Division, which handles disagreements between school districts and parents of children with disabilities.

"I was so overwhelmed with emotion and joy that we don't have to fight anymore after a battle of over two years," said Jana Adams, the girl's mother. "She can just go to school like any other child and we don't have to keep pushing to get what she needs."

The family's lawyer Joe Rogoway said he hopes the ruling opens the door for other students who say they need to use a cannabis-based drug on campus for medical reasons.

District officials said they were reviewing the decision and haven't decided whether to appeal. Assistant Superintendent Cathy Myhers said the district is relieved to have legal guidance on the issue.

"We are pleased with the decision and guidance," Myhers said. "We are happy to have a decision that supports our ability to educate and serve this student in our public schools."

Travel still dangerous in flooded areas of North Carolina

BLADENBORO, N.C. (AP)—Travel remained dangerous Saturday in southeastern North Carolina, where the governor warned of "treacherous" floodwaters more than a week after Hurricane Florence made landfall, and urged residents to stay alert for flood warnings and evacuation orders.

Gov. Roy Cooper said nine of the state's river gauges are at major flood stage and four others are at moderate stage, while parts of Interstates 95 and 40 will remain underwater for another week or more. Emergency management officials said residents whose homes were damaged or destroyed will begin moving into hotel rooms next week.

"Hurricane Florence has deeply wounded our state, wounds that will not fade soon as the flood waters finally recede," Cooper said.

South Carolina also has ordered more evacuations as rivers continue to rise in the aftermath of a storm that has claimed at least 43 lives since slamming into the coast more than a week ago.

The small farming community of Nichols, South Carolina, about 40 miles (65 kilometers) from the coast, was completely inundated by water, Mayor Lawson Batter said Saturday. He called the situation "worse than Matthew," the 2016 hurricane that destroyed almost 90 percent of the town's 261 homes. Battle said flooding from Florence has wiped out the 150 or so homes rebuilt afterward.

"It's just a mess," said Battle, who was awaiting a visit from Gov. Henry McMaster. "We will try everything we can to come back ... but we need to have federal and state help."

Benetta White and David Lloyd were among 100 people rescued with helicopters, boats and high-wheeled military vehicles during a six-hour operation in southeastern North Carolina's Bladen County that lasted into Friday morning—their second evacuation in a week. White and Lloyd, who live in the North Carolina town of Kelly, were given little time Thursday night to evacuate when the Cape Fear River came rushing onto their property. By the time they loaded their van, they had to slog through waist-high, foul-smelling water to get to a neighbor's pickup.

From there, they went to the town's fire department and were taken by an Army truck to a shelter at a Bladen County high school.

"We had to evacuate again, all over again, and got trapped in a bunch of water and almost lost our lives," said White.

In Wilmington, where Hurricane Florence made landfall and which had been cut off by floodwaters, officials said they'd identified three safe routes into town. They encouraged people to avoid travel in areas where the risk of flooding remains.

North Carolina Emergency Management Director Michael Sprayberry said Saturday that eastern counties continue to see major flooding, including areas along the Black, Lumber, Neuse and Cape Fear rivers. The Cape Fear river is expected to crest Sunday and remain at flood stage through early next week.

He said residents who register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency can begin moving into hotels Monday. The program initially will be open to residents in nine counties, then will be expanded. A FEMA coordinator said about 69,000 people from North Carolina already have registered for assistance.

North Carolina environmental officials said they're closely monitoring two sites where Florence's floodwaters have inundated coal ash sites .

The state is using drones to get photos and video of a dam breach at the L.V. Sutton Power Station in Wilmington, where gray muck has been seen flowing into the Cape Fear River, and at the H.F. Lee Power Plant near Goldsboro, said Michael Regan, secretary of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality.

He said Saturday that the video and photos show sand and "potential coal ash" leaving the Sutton site, and the DEQ will put people on the ground when it is safe. He said that DEQ staff has seen that coal ash left the basin and entered flood waters at the H.F. Lee plant, and is trying to determine "how much of that, if any" has entered into the Neuse River.

In Conway, South Carolina, water from the Waccamaw river began flowing into a Santee Cooper ash pond. The company said in a statement that the overtopping occurred Saturday morning, but no significant environmental impact was expected because nearly all of the ash had been excavated from the pond.

The National Weather Service confirmed Saturday that 10 tornadoes spawned by Hurricane Florence touched down Monday in Virginia, the strongest of which leveled a flooring company in Chesterfied and killed one worker.

An economic research firm estimated that Hurricane Florence has caused around $44 billion in damage and lost output, which would make it one of the top 10 costliest U.S. hurricanes. The top disaster, Hurricane Katrina in 2005, cost $192.2 billion in today's dollars, while last year's Hurricane Harvey cost $133.5 billion

Moody's Analytics estimates Florence has caused $40 billion in damage and $4 billion in lost economic output, though the company stressed that the estimate is preliminary and could go higher or lower.

Asia

Some see signs of hope on N. Korea as Trump heads to UN

WASHINGTON (AP)—North Korea's Kim Jong Un is "little rocket man" no more. President Donald Trump isn't a "mentally deranged U.S. dotard."

In the year since Trump's searing, debut U.N. speech fueled fears of nuclear conflict with North Korea, the two leaders have turned from threats to flattery.

And there's fresh hope that the U.S. president's abrupt shift from coercion to negotiation can yield results in getting Kim to halt, if not abandon, his nuclear weapons program.

Trump will address world leaders at the United Nations on Tuesday on the back of an upbeat summit between South and North Korea, where Kim promised to dismantle a major rocket launch site and the North's main nuclear complex at Nyongbyon if it gets some incentive from Washington.

North Korea remains a long, long way from relinquishing its nuclear arsenal, and the U.S. has been adding to, not easing, sanctions. Yet the past 12 months have seen a remarkable change in atmosphere between the adversaries that has surprised even the former U.S. envoy on North Korea.

"If someone had told me last year that North Korea will stop nuclear tests, will stop missile tests and that they will release the remaining American prisoners and that they would be even considering dismantling Nyongbyon, I would have taken that in a heartbeat," said Joseph Yun, who resigned in March and has since left the U.S. foreign service.

Since Trump and Kim held the first summit between U.S. and North Korean leaders in Singapore in June, Trump has missed no chance to praise "Chairman Kim," and Kim has expressed "trust and confidence" in the American president he once branded "senile."

But progress has been slow toward the vague goal they agreed upon—denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, which has eluded U.S. presidents for the past quarter-century. The U.S. wants to achieve that by January 2021, when Trump completes his first term in office.

Although Kim won't be going to New York next week, meetings there could prove critical in deciding whether a second Trump-Kim summit will take place any time soon.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has invited his North Korean counterpart Ri Yong Ho for a meeting in New York, and Trump will be consulting with South Korean President Moon Jae-in, fresh from his third summit with Kim this year. It was at that meeting in Pyongyang that the North Korean leader made his tantalizing offers to close key facilities of his weapons programs that have revived prospects for U.S.-North Korea talks.

Yun, who spoke to reporters Friday at the United States Institute for Peace in Washington, said the U.S. goal of achieving denuclearization in just two years is unrealistic, but the offer to close Nyongbyon, where the North has plutonium, uranium and nuclear reprocessing facilities, is significant and offers a way forward.

That's a far cry from last September. After Trump's thunderous speech, Yun's first thought was on the need to avoid a war. The president vowed to "totally destroy North Korea" if the U.S. was forced to defend itself or its allies against the North's nukes. "Rocket man is on a suicide mission for himself and his regime," the president said.

His blunt talk triggered an extraordinary, almost surreal, exchange of insults. Kim issued a harshly worded statement from Pyongyang, dubbing the thin-skinned Trump a "mentally deranged U.S. dotard." A day later, the North's top diplomat warned it could test explode a hydrogen bomb over the Pacific Ocean.

Tensions have eased hugely since then, and cracks have emerged in the international consensus on pressuring North Korea economically to get it to disarm.

AP

South Korean first lady Kim Jung-sook puts water from the crater lake as North Korean first lady Ri Sol Ju, second from left, watches on the Mount Paektu in North Korea, Thursday, Sept. 20, 2018.

New landslide kills 21, buries houses in PH

NAGA, Philippines (AP)—A massive landslide buried dozens of homes near a central Philippine mountain Thursday, killing at least 21 people and sending rescuers scrambling to find survivors after some sent text messages pleading for help.

The slide surged down on about 30 houses in two rural villages after daybreak in Naga city in Cebu province, city police chief Roderick Gonzales said by telephone as he helped supervise the search and rescue. Seven injured villagers were rescued from the huge mound of earth and debris.

Some victims managed to send messages after the landslide hit, Gonzales said, adding that elderly women and a child were among the dead.

Nimrod Parba, a 26-year-old resident, said a relative trapped in a house beneath the rubble managed to call Thursday morning and begged to be rescued. The calls stopped, however, and the relative could not be reached hours later, Parba said.

Naga city Mayor Kristine Vanessa Chiong said at least 64 people remained missing.

"We're really hoping we can still recover them alive," she said.

The landslide hit while several northern Philippine provinces are still dealing with deaths and widespread damage wrought by Typhoon Mangkhut, which pummeled the agricultural region Saturday and left at least 88 people dead and more than 60 missing. A massive search is still underway for dozens of people feared dead after landslides in the gold-mining town of Itogon in the north.

Cebu province was not directly hit by Mangkhut but the massive typhoon intensified monsoon rains across a large part of the archipelago, including the central region where Naga city lies about 570 kilometers (355 miles) southeast of Manila.

Rescuers were treading carefully in small groups on the unstable ground to avoid further casualties.

"We're running out of time. The ground in the area is still vibrating. We're striking a balance between intensifying our rescue efforts and ensuring the safety of our rescuers," Naga city Councilor Carmelino Cruz said by phone.

Cristita Villarba, a 53-year-old resident, said her husband and son were preparing to leave for work when the ground shook and they were overwhelmed by a roar.

"It was like an earthquake and there was this thundering, loud banging sound. All of us ran out," Villarba said, adding that she, her husband and three children were shocked but unhurt.

Outside, she saw the house of her older brother, Lauro, and his family buried in the landslide.

"Many of our neighbors were crying and screaming for help. Some wanted to help those who got hit but there was too much earth covering the houses, including my brother's," she said.

Nearly 20 people lived in her brother's home, mostly his family and grandchildren, she said.

Villarba said she had felt sorry a few days earlier for the landslide victims in the country's north.

"I had no idea we would be the next," she said.

Elsewhere in the landslide-hit community, a father and his young daughter were found dead in each other's embrace in a house, volunteer rescuer Vic Santillan said.

It's not clear what set off the landslide, but some residents blamed limestone quarries, which they suspect may have caused cracks in the mountainside facing their villages. Villarba said a light rain stopped when the landslide hit and there was no rain on Wednesday.

The nearest quarry was abandoned about a year ago, but another government-authorized quarry is still being operated not far away, and villagers also profit from the limestone business, said Angeline Templo, an assistant to the mayor.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China summons US envoys over sanctions linked to Russia deal

BEIJING (AP)—China summoned the American ambassador and the defense attache and recalled its navy commander from a U.S. trip to deliver a strong protest against economic sanctions Washington lodged over the purchase of Russian fighter jets and surface-to-air missile equipment. The Defense Ministry said the U.S. had no right to interfere in Chinese military cooperation with Russia. "We demand that the U.S. immediately correct the mistake and revoke the so-called sanctions, otherwise the U.S. must bear the consequences," the Defense Ministry said in a statement. The Foreign Ministry said that it had summoned Ambassador Terry Branstad. The Central Military Commission, which commands the People's Liberation Army, the world's largest standing military, said that Huang Xueping, the commission's deputy head for international military cooperation, had also summoned the acting U.S. defense attache on Saturday evening, the official Xinhua News Agency said. Huang said China would immediately recall Shen Jinlong, a Chinese navy commander currently in the U.S. attending a symposium, and would postpone a meeting scheduled for Sept. 25-27 in Beijing about a communication mechanism.

7 Pakistani soldiers, 9 militants killed in shootout

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's military says security forces have raided militant hideouts setting off a shootout that left seven soldiers and nine militants dead. In a statement Saturday, the military said the operation was carried out in the Gharlamai and Spera Kunar Algad areas of North Waziristan near the border with Afghanistan. The military said an army captain was among those killed. The military provided no details about the militants killed. North Waziristan has long been a sanctuary for the Pakistani Taliban and other militant groups. Pakistan has carried out a number of military operations there in recent years and claims to have eliminated militant safe havens, but attacks persist.

World

Pope battered by abuse scandal gets warm welcome in Baltics

VILNIUS, Lithuania (AP)—Tens of thousands of Lithuanians lined the narrow streets of the Old Town of Vilnius and cheered Saturday as Pope Francis' popemobile passed by, an exuberant greeting that must have been welcome to a pope battered by new revelations in the Catholic Church's long-running sex abuse scandal.

The church's mounting credibility crisis was nowhere to be seen or heard on Vilnius' streets, which were filled with Lithuanians and Poles who arrived by the busload to welcome Francis as he kicked off a four-day visit to three Baltic countries concerned about neighboring Russia.

Francis was travelling to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia to mark their 100th anniversaries of independence and to encourage the faith in the Baltics, which saw five decades of Soviet-imposed religious repression and state-sponsored atheism. In addition, during the 1940s Nazi occupation, Lithuania's centuries-old Jewish community was nearly exterminated.

AP

Pope Francis arrives to celebrate a Mass and Angelus prayer in Santakos Park, in Kaunas, Lithuania, Sunday, Sept. 23, 2018.

Speaking outside the Vilnius presidential palace upon his arrival, Francis recalled that until the imposition of "totalitarian ideologies" in the 20th century, Lithuania had peacefully been home to a variety of ethnic and religious groups, including Christians, Jews and Muslims.

He said the world today is marked by political forces that exploit fear to justify violence and intolerance of others, "proclaiming that the only way possible to guarantee security and the continued existence of a culture is to try to eliminate, cancel or expel others."

In a reference to the spread of anti-immigrant, populist forces in Europe and beyond, Francis said Lithuania could be a model of openness, understanding, tolerance and solidarity.

"You have suffered 'in the flesh' those efforts to impose a single model that would annul differences under the pretense of believing that the privileges of a few are more important than the dignity of others or the common good," he said.

The Baltic countries declared their independence in 1918 but were annexed into the Soviet Union in 1940 in a secret agreement with Nazi Germany. The Vatican and many Western countries refused to recognize the annexation. Except for the 1941-1944 Nazi occupation, the countries remained part of the Soviet Union until its collapse in the early 1990s.

A quarter century after the fall of the Soviet Union, the three countries are sounding alarms anew about Moscow's military maneuvers in the Baltic Sea, as well as Russia's 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and its support of separatists fighting the Ukrainian government.

The Vatican, however, has been loath to openly criticize Moscow or its powerful Orthodox Church, a stance that suggests that any modern threats from Russia will be the unmentioned elephant in the room during his trip.

The trip, which features Francis' fondness for countries on the periphery, was a welcome break for the Argentine pope. His credibility has taken a blow recently following missteps on the church's priestly sex abuse scandal and recent allegations that he covered up for an American cardinal.

The Baltic visit was overshadowed, however, by the announcement of a breakthrough in Vatican-China relations over the nomination of bishops.

Still, the China agreement and the church's sex abuse scandals were far from the minds of the pilgrims who flooded into Vilnius for the pope's visit. That was welcome show of support after Francis' previous two major trips this year—to Chile and Ireland—were dominated by the sex abuse scandal and featured smaller-than-expected crowds.

World leaders gather at UN under threat from unilateralism

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—With rising unilateralism challenging its very existence, the United Nations convenes its annual meeting of world leaders Monday and will try once more to tackle problems together as a community of nations, addressing threats ranging from Mideast conflicts to the effects of global warming—and also encouraging the glimmer of hope over the nuclear standoff in North Korea.

This year, 133 world leaders have signed up to attend the General Assembly session, a significant increase from last year's 114. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called the expected large turnout "eloquent proof of the confidence of the international community in the United Nations," though other U.N. officials and diplomats said it's in response to growing concerns about an increasingly turbulent world.

The seven-year-old conflict in Syria and the three-year war in Yemen that has sparked the world's worst humanitarian crisis and is now seriously threatening large-scale famine will certainly be in the spotlight, along with meetings on other Mideast and African hot spots. So will Iran, which faces escalating hostile rhetoric from the Trump administration over its activities supporting international terrorism, which Tehran vehemently denies.

Guterres said last week that one of his overriding concerns in an increasingly globalized world is the threat to having the U.N.'s 193 member nations work together, which is the foundation of the United Nations.

"Multilateralism is under attack from many different directions precisely when we need it most," the U.N. chief told reporters Thursday. "In different areas and for different reasons, the trust of people in their political establishments, the trust of states among each other, the trust of many people in international organizations has been eroded and ... multilateralism has been in the fire."

Guterres challenged diplomats at last week's opening of the 73rd session of the General Assembly by saying: "At a time of fragmentation and polarization, the world needs this assembly to show the value of international cooperation."

Whether it will be able to remains in question.

At this year's gathering of presidents, prime ministers, monarchs and minsters, populist leaders will include U.S. President Donald Trump, President Andrzej Duda of Poland and Premier Giuseppe Conte of Italy along with the foreign ministers of Hungary and Austria.

U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley told reporters that Trump, who champions an "America First" policy, wants to talk about "protecting U.S. sovereignty," and she reiterated Washington's opposition to the 2015 Paris climate agreement on curbing global warming and a newly agreed international compact aimed at regulating migration.

Egypt court upholds corruption conviction of Mubarak, sons

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's highest appeals court on Saturday rejected a motion by former president Hosni Mubarak and his two sons to overturn their conviction on corruption charges.

The ruling by the Court of Cassation, Egypt's final recourse for appeals in criminal cases, dashed any hope that Gamal, Mubarak's younger son and one-time heir apparent, could run for public office. A senior newspaper editor and confidant of Egypt's current president had recently suggested that banker-turned-politician Gamal may have been contemplating the move.

The Mubarak trio was sentenced to three years each for embezzling funds meant for maintenance of presidential palaces but which they spent on upgrading or building private residences. The sons were released in 2015 for time served, while their father was freed last year. They repaid the funds, a total of 125 million pounds (about $7 million).

Mubarak's sons are currently on trial for insider trading. They are free on bail after a judge on Thursday overturned a surprise Sept. 15 ruling to detain them. The case's next hearing is on Oct. 20.

The rejection of their appeal Saturday and Gamal Mubarak's subsequent ineligibility to run for office came in the wake of recent comments by the chief editor of state-run Al-Akhbar publications, Yasser Rizq, who suggested that frequent public appearances by the younger Mubarak could be a prelude to a future presidential run.

Rizq first warned Gamal Mubarak against harboring presidential ambitions in an article published in May. He repeated the warning in a television interview aired earlier this week.

"His real crime is insulting the dignity of the Egyptian people," Rizq said, alluding to Gamal's one-time intention to succeed his father. It violated the constitution and amounted to the toppling of republican rule, he explained. He said it was not improbable that he would strike a political deal with the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood to secure the group's return to politics in exchange for its support in a presidential bid in 2022, when President Abdel-Fattah El-Sissi's second term ends.

Preventing Gamal from succeeding his father was among the main drivers of a 2011 uprising that ended Mubarak's 29-year rule, as well as the military's support for it. The years that followed saw Mubarak regime heavyweights tried on corruption or abuse of power charges. Most have since walked free, while second-string regime loyalists found their way back to public life under el-Sissi.

El-Sissi led the military's 2013 ouster of Egypt's first freely elected president—the Brotherhood's Mohammed Morsi—and has since overseen a massive crackdown on his supporters, jailing thousands of them along with secular activists behind the 2011 uprising.

Egypt's constitution prohibits el-Sissi from running for a third term in office, but his supporters have raised the specter of amending the 2014 charter to allow him to do so or extend the duration of his term. He won a second, four-year term in office this year in an election in which his only opponent was a little-known politician viewed as among his staunchest supporters.

Focus

AP

This Friday, Sept. 21, 2018, combination of file photos shows from left, Laurene Powell Jobs, who has a majority stake in The Atlantic, Jeff Bezos, who bought The Washington Post in 2013, Patrick Soon-Shiong, who bought The Los Angeles Times in 2018, John Henry, who bought the Boston Globe in 2013, and Marc Benioff, who bought Time Magazine. For the billionaires ownership of storied magazines or newspapers provides an alluring combination of a trophy property, a high-profile opportunity to demonstrate their business acumen and a chance to display highbrow civic-mindedness.

BILLIONAIRES BUYING UP MEDIA: Savior complex or civic duty?

By BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP)— The Washington Post. Time Magazine. The Atlantic. The Village Voice. The Los Angeles Times. All American media icons, all bought by billionaires in the past half decade. Some are thriving. One died. On the rest, the jury's still out.

Still, for beleaguered news organizations the prospect of a deep-pocketed savior—even from the very same tech industry that has kneecapped the media's traditional business model—is all but irresistible.

But success is not guaranteed. And risks run from industry outsiders making poor business decisions to exposure to undue influence on editorial operations.

For the billionaires, meanwhile, ownership of storied magazines or newspapers provides an alluring combination of a trophy property, a high-profile opportunity to demonstrate their business acumen and a chance to display highbrow civic-mindedness.

"There is nothing more satisfactory than seeing your name on top of a masthead as publisher or editor or owner," said Samir A. Husni, journalism professor at the University of Mississippi.

While some new billionaire owners say they are doing it for civic purposes and to ensure that journalism will continue as an institution, at the end of the day these folks are still businesspeople, Husni said. If their investments don't work out, it's not guaranteed they'll want to run publications as charities.

Billionaires are accustomed to success. But they also have enough money to fail. That includes tech magnates like Jeff Bezos, who bought The Washington Post in 2013 for $250 million, or Marc Benioff, the Salesforce CEO who just snapped up Time Magazine for $190 million, and even Steve Jobs' widow, Laurene Powell Jobs, who has acquired a majority stake in The Atlantic.

Benioff told the technology journalist and New York Times columnist Kara Swisher this week that he sees Time magazine as a startup that's been "opportunity constrained."

"But we are here to unshackle them," he said.

Having these tech titans enter a centuries-old industry could help bring in fresh ideas and new blood, not only reinventing the magazines and the newspapers but also the ages-old business model of relying on advertising for revenue, Husni said.

"What they see even more than even people in legacy media," he said, is the need to change the industry's business model.

Still, a deep-pocketed newspaper owner who has civic duty and a higher purpose in mind may be more forgiving if that newspaper doesn't immediately turn a profit, or if that profit growth is in the low single digits.

Bezos has said that the Post is profitable. But even if it weren't, the world's richest man—whose own company Amazon.com Inc. did not turn a profit for years—would likely be more patient than a hedge fund or even Wall Street.

For many of the recently purchased media companies, it is too soon to tell whether their new owners are content waiting for years.

"They want publications to be run in a businesslike way and not be throwing money around and owing money," said Rick Edmonds, media business analyst at the Poynter Institute. "That would sour them."

Joe Ricketts, the founder and CEO of TD Ameritrade and owner of the Chicago Cubs, shut down two popular New York news sites last year citing business reasons—a week after their staffs voted to unionize. He founded one of them, DNAinfo, in 2009 and bought New York's Gothamist earlier in 2017 (Gothamist was later purchased and restarted by the public radio station WNYC).

"That was a pretty clear case of a business person choosing to exit the business because of the business problems with it," Edmonds said.

New York's iconic Village Voice closed down last month after 63 years of Pulitzer Prizes, muckraking investigations and its infamous personal ads. Its publisher, Peter Barbey, whose family made its billions in the textile and apparel industry, bought the alternative weekly in 2015. Barbey wanted to save the Voice after a series of ownership changes, staff departures and losses in readership and advertising that had left it in a state of perpetual peril.

He shuttered the print edition last summer in an attempt to save money. It didn't save the Voice.

"Like many others in publishing, we were continually optimistic that relief was around the next corner," Barbey wrote.

Longtime media analyst Ken Doctor said the new wealthy owners sometimes forget that it's not the decline of an individual company, but an entire industry, they are witnessing.

"It has been on the decline for a decade and no one has turned that around," Doctor said.

John Henry, the principal owner of the Boston Red Sox, paid $70 million for The Boston Globe in 2013, but five years later he is still trying to turn the paper's business around. Biotech billionaire Patrick Soon-Shiong bought The Los Angeles Times and other newspapers this year for $500 million, saying they are "more vital than ever" and calling fake news "the cancer of our times."

But Soon-Shiong also acknowledged that digital shifts "pose an existential threat to the traditional newspaper industry" and that the newspapers "must be run as a business in order to grow and thrive."

Bezos didn't want the Post at first, when a friend first approached him about buying it.

"I had no intention of buying a newspaper," he said earlier this month at The Economic Club of Washington, D.C. "It never occurred to me. It wasn't like a childhood dream."

He said he changed his mind because he realized it was "an important institution."

That purchase has received steady criticism from President Donald Trump, who says Bezos is using it as a mouthpiece to support Amazon. The newsroom says Bezos stays out of editorial decisions.

"It is the newspaper, in the capital city of the most important country in the world," he Bezos said. "The Washington Post has an incredibly important role to play in this democracy."

Health & Wellness

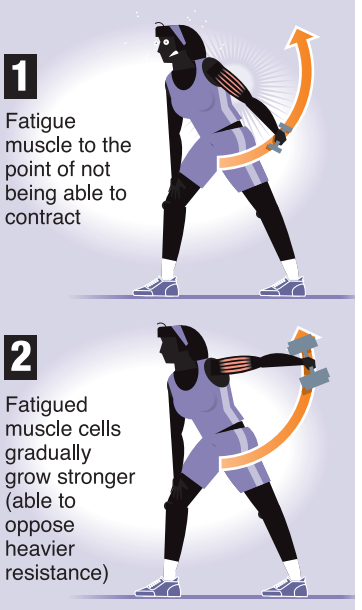
This advertorial is sponsored by Tan Holdings HEALTH IS WEALTH Tan Siu Lin Foundation

PERSONAL TRAINER

Less time, same benefits

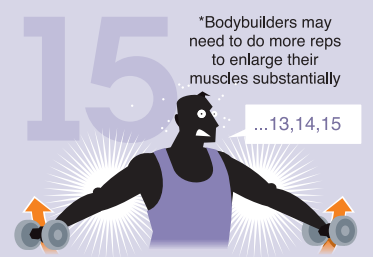
Weightlifting is often done in many sets of repetitions, but most people need only a 20-minute session, two or three times weekly.

THE PROCESS:
Fatigue the muscle

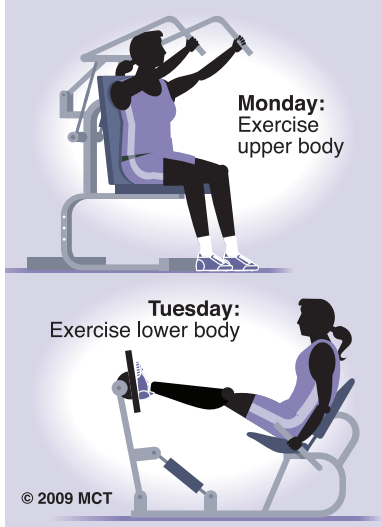

1
Fatigue muscle to the point of not being able to contract
2
Fatigued muscle cells gradually grow stronger (able to oppose heavier resistance)

THE TECHNIQUE:
Do only one set

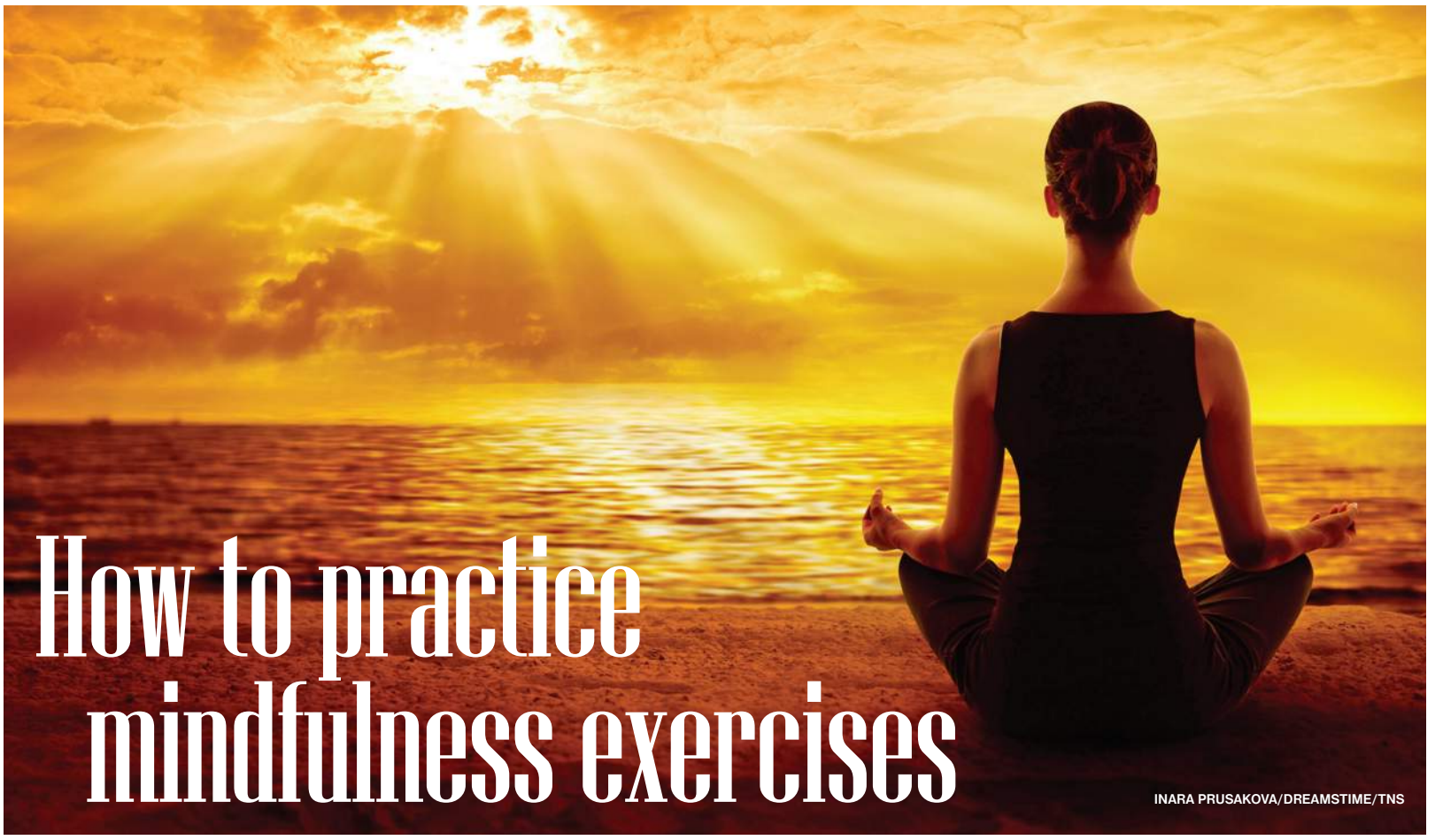
Many studies have found that a single set of 12-15 repetitions fatigues a muscle enough to build strength and burn calories*


15
*Bodybuilders may need to do more reps to enlarge their muscles substantially
...13,14,15
Too heavy to continue past about 15th repetition

A TIME-SAVER:
Divide your routine
An example:



Source: Mayo Clinic fitness specialist Dr. Ed Laskowski
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap



How to practice mindfulness exercises

INARA PRUSAKOVA/DREAMSTIME/TNS

Mindfulness is a type of meditation where you focus on being intensely aware of what you're sensing and feeling in the moment, without interpretation or judgment.

Mindfulness is a type of meditation in which you focus on being intensely aware of what you're sensing and feeling in the moment, without interpretation or judgment. Practicing mindfulness involves breathing methods, guided imagery, and other practices to relax the body and mind and help reduce stress.

Spending too much time planning, problem-solving, daydreaming, or thinking negative or random thoughts can be draining. It can also make you more likely to experience stress, anxiety and symptoms of depression. Practicing mindfulness exercises can help you direct your attention away from this kind of thinking and engage with the world around you.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF MEDITATION?

Meditation has been studied in many clinical trials. The overall evidence supports the effectiveness of meditation for various conditions, including:

- Stress
- Anxiety
- Pain
- Depression
- Insomnia
- High blood pressure (hypertension)

Preliminary research indicates that meditation can also help people with asthma and fibromyalgia.

Meditation can help you experience thoughts and emotions with greater balance and acceptance. Meditation also has been shown to:

- Improve attention
- Decrease job burnout
- Improve sleep
- Improve diabetes control

WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF MINDFULNESS EXERCISES?

There are many simple ways to practice mindfulness. Some examples include:

Pay attention.

It's hard to slow down and notice things in a busy world. Try to take the time to experience your environment with all of your senses—touch, sound, sight, smell and taste. For example, when you eat a favorite food, take the time to smell, taste and truly enjoy it.

Live in the moment.

Try to intentionally bring an open, accepting and discerning attention to everything you do. Find joy in simple pleasures.

Accept yourself.

Treat yourself the way you would treat a good friend.

Focus on your breathing.

When you have negative thoughts, try to sit down, take a deep breath and close your eyes. Focus on your breath as it moves in and out of your body. Sitting and breathing for even just a minute can help.You can also try more structured mindfulness exercises, such as:

Body scan meditation.

Lie on your back with your legs extended and arms at your sides, palms facing up. Focus your attention slowly and deliberately on each part of your body, in order, from toe to head or head to toe. Be aware of any sensations, emotions or thoughts associated with each part of your body.

Sitting meditation.

Sit comfortably with your back straight, feet flat on the floor and hands in your lap. Breathing through your nose, focus on your breath moving in and out of your body. If physical sensations or thoughts interrupt your meditation, note the experience and then return your focus to your breath.

Walking meditation.

Find a quiet place 10 to 20 feet in length, and begin to walk slowly. Focus on the experience of walking, being aware of the sensations of standing and the subtle movements that keep your balance. When you reach the end of your path, turn and continue walking, maintaining awareness of your sensations.

WHEN AND HOW OFTEN SHOULD I PRACTICE MINDFULNESS EXERCISES?

It depends on what kind of mindfulness exercise you plan to do.

Simple mindfulness exercises can be practiced anywhere and anytime. Research indicates that engaging your senses outdoors is especially beneficial.

For more structured mindfulness exercises, such as body scan meditation or sitting meditation, you'll need to set aside time when you can be in a quiet place without distractions or interruptions. You might choose to practice this type of exercise early in the morning before you begin your daily routine.

Aim to practice mindfulness every day for about six months. Over time, you might find that mindfulness becomes effortless. Think of it as a commitment to reconnecting with and nurturing yourself. ***(Mayo Clinic News Network)***

How to . . . avoid ineffective workouts

By ALISON JOHNSON
DAILY PRESS

Almost any exercise is good exercise. That said, some people waste time on routines that aren't best for reaching their goals, trainers say. Here are general tips from Shaun Knight, a certified athletic trainer in Virginia Beach, Va.:

Think about variety, not just time. Keeping your body guessing is the best way to torch calories. "If you ride an exercise bike at the same level for an hour, it may not be beneficial—especially given the time you're putting in," Knight says. "Your body will get used to it and start to think it's easy."

Add different elements. Instead of running at a steady pace for an hour, you might run for 20 minutes, bike for 20 minutes and run stairs for another 20. For strength-training, you could rotate between push-ups, squats and rowing machines.

Switch up intensity. Increase your speed or resistance for short bursts of time. Even if you're just walking on a treadmill, you can make the incline steeper.

Focus on more than one muscle group. Your abdominal muscles won't look great from crunches alone—you need a full-body aerobic workout too. You also won't effectively tone your legs just by using sit-down resistance equipment; instead, try a standing "cable column" machine that requires balance and works muscles from different angles.

Schedule time with a trainer. Even if you can afford just one session, you can learn correct form for favorite exercises to prevent wasted energy and injury.

Understand your goals. If you want to lose weight, exercises that isolate one muscle group—biceps curls or calf lifts—won't be much help. But if you're trying to tone your arms or calves, those curls and lifts are important.

Shorten breaks. Resist the urge to rest for more than a minute or two between machines during circuit training. And cut socializing by putting on headphones until your workout is done.

Life & Style

Art's iconic 'Blue Boy' gets major 250th birthday makeover

SAN MARINO, Calif. (AP)—"Blue Boy" is getting a long-awaited makeover, and the public can watch as one of the world's most recognizable paintings gets a little nip here, a nice tuck there and some splashes of fresh paint (blue presumably) just in time for the eternally youthful adolescent to mark his 250th birthday.

Thomas Gainsborough's stunning oil on canvas featuring a British youth dressed nearly all in blue has been one of the most sought-out attractions at Southern California's Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens since its arrival in 1921.

But it hasn't had a substantial restoration in at least 97 years, and over time it's become a bit torn and tattered, some of its colors have faded and, worse still, some of its paint is beginning to flake.

All that begins to stop Saturday when The Huntington's senior paintings conservator, Christina O'Connell, goes to work armed with an array of 21st century tools to restore an 18th century masterpiece.

She'll have a microscope that, at 6 feet (1.8 meters), is taller than she is and can zoom in on the painting's smallest details and magnify them 25 times. She'll have numerous digital X-radiography and infrared reflectography images of the work that she's been compiling and studying over the past year. And, of course, there will be paint created to match what Gainsborough was using circa 1770.

With all that at her disposal she expects to have "Project Blue Boy" completed about this time next year and the kid back on The Huntington's Thornton Gallery wall, alongside other stunning portraits from the era, sometime in early 2020.

AP

In this undated photo released by the The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens shows an oil on canvas painting titled "The Blue Boy" (ca. 1770), by Thomas Gainsborough (1727-1788).

As O'Connell toils in the same area where "Blue Boy" has hung for nearly a century, visitors will be able to walk up and watch what she's doing. And, during occasional breaks, she'll stop to explain it to them.

"One of the reasons why the painting hasn't undergone such an extensive conservation treatment before was because people always wanted to keep it on view. So this is a way to address the conservation needs of the painting while keeping it on view—so the visitors won't miss him," she said with a smile as she took a break from her work in the gallery earlier this week.

Indeed, "Blue Boy"—whoever he was—has become a worldwide icon since Gainsborough put him on display to acclaim at Britain's Royal Academy exhibition of 1770. The artist titled the work, "A Portrait of a Young Gentleman," but when stunned viewers saw the full-length portrait of an adolescent dressed all in bright blue silk, from his tunic to the breeches extending just below his knees, they quickly gave him a nickname.

Although Gainsborough, one of the greatest British painters of the 18th century, is renowned as a master of the brush, O'Connell says she won't be nervous while a crowd watches her every move when she takes up her own brush to add touches—inpainting, it's called—to replace what the painting has lost to the ravages of time.

"We're dealing with a lot of the usual suspects when it comes to a painting this age as far as condition issues are concerned," she said, adding she's repaired much worse, including a painting that was once handed to her in pieces.

Still, this is "Blue Boy" so she'll take her time. When The Huntington's founder, railroad tycoon Henry Huntington, bought it in 1921, he paid a then-record sum of $728,000. Some Britons were reported to have cried when they learned their boy was leaving his native country.

Art historians have never figured out exactly who "Blue Boy" was, although they have a pretty good suspect, said Melinda McCurdy, The Huntington's associate curator for British art and O'Connell's partner in the restoration project.

"It could be an image of Gainsborough Dupont, who was the artist's nephew," McCurdy said. "He lived with the family so he would have been a readily available model. And we know that the blue suit was a studio prop that the artist owned."

Dupont, looking a few years older than "Blue Boy," but not that much different, appears in the same suit in other Gainsborough paintings.

"Blue Boy," it turns out, also had a dog until Gainsborough painted it out of the picture. The kid's furry friend was discovered in a 1994 X-ray that also is on display at O'Connell's work station, along with X-rays that reveal nearly a foot-long tear in the canvas that was repaired so well it can't be seen with the naked eye.

Jane Fonda, her life and men star in a revealing documentary

LOS ANGELES (AP)—As beguiling and powerful as Jane Fonda is onscreen, she has yet to play a role that's a match for her whiplash-inducing life of artistry, celebrity and polarizing activism. Then there's the personal drama, including serial marriages to three very different husbands with their own claims to fame.

When the 80-year-old Fonda decided to participate in a documentary about her—"Why not? I don't know how much longer I'm gonna live"—it was with award-winning filmmaker Susan Lacy, who made an intriguing choice: using the men in Fonda's life as the organizing principle for "Jane Fonda in Five Acts."

The film, debuting from 8 to 10:15 p.m. Monday EDT on HBO, devotes its first chapter to Fonda's fraught bond with her emotionally reserved dad, the acclaimed actor Henry Fonda. It was at the end of his life that she managed to draw him closer: They starred opposite each other as an estranged father and daughter in the film "On Golden Pond."

The 1982 Academy Award ceremony at which Henry Fonda won his only Oscar is what Jane Fonda readily points to when asked to name a Hollywood career highlight. Her father died four months later.

"The fact that it was with this movie, and he asked me to receive it (the award) if he won," Fonda said in an interview, her steady, blue-eyed gaze reminiscent of her father. "It's rare that a child gets a chance to do something like this for a parent with whom they have had such a complicated relationship."

(Co-star Katharine Hepburn won her fourth Oscar and showed her competitive streak. "You'll never catch me now," she crowed to Jane Fonda, a two-time winner for "Klute" and "Coming Home.")

"Five Acts" then moves on to the husbands: French film director Roger Vadim (of the "Barbarella" sex-kitten years), activist Tom Hayden (a match for her growing political fervor) and media mogul Ted Turner (so magnetic that she tried semi-retirement, until she didn't.)

She recalls the thrill of sexual "electricity" with all three partners, but felt compelled only by pregnancy to marry Vadim (they had a daughter, Vanessa) and Hayden (a son, Troy). She wed Turner in 1991, she said, because he insisted living together was setting a bad example for his grown children.

"But I think it's really because he's insecure. I mean, men want to get married," Fonda said. "I had two important relationships subsequent to Ted, they wanted to get married. They were obsessed with it, because it's possession."

Comcast beats Fox in Sky auction with $39B bid

LONDON (AP) — Comcast has emerged as the top bidder for European broadcaster Sky after a rare auction held by British regulators.

After three rounds of secret bidding on Friday and Saturday, Comcast offered the higher price of 17.28 pounds ($22.58) per share for Sky, the equivalent of nearly 30 billion pounds ($39 billion). Rival 21st Century Fox offered 15.67 ($20.47) per share.

In a statement, Sky recommended that shareholders accept Comcast's offer and sell their shares immediately. Comcast said it hoped to complete the takeover by the end of October.

"Sky is a wonderful company with a great platform, tremendous brand and accomplished management team," Comcast Chairman and CEO Brian Roberts said in a statement. "This acquisition will allow us to quickly, efficiently and meaningfully increase our customer base and expand internationally."

Philadelphia-based Comcast is one of the largest cable television providers in the U.S. Around 29 million customers get cable television, internet access and other services from Comcast.

Britain's regulator, the Takeover Panel, set up the auction to reduce uncertainty for Sky after months of offers and counteroffers from the American media giants. Sky is Europe's largest pay-television operator, with 22.5 million customers in seven countries and popular programming including English Premier League soccer and "Game of Thrones."

Fox owns 39 percent of Sky. It now must decide whether to sell its stake or remain a minority shareholder.

Fox had long been trying to acquire the 61 percent of Sky it doesn't already own. Fox founder Rupert Murdoch's last bid sank amid a 2011 phone-hacking scandal, in which journalists working for Murdoch newspapers were accused of gaining illegal access to the voicemail messages of crime victims, celebrities and members of the royal family.

Black Eyed Peas tackle gun violence, immigration in videos

NEW YORK (AP)—The Black Eyed Peas tackle gun violence at schools and immigration in two new music videos for their song, "Big Love."

The trio—it's unclear if Fergie is still part of the group—released the videos Friday. They also announced proceeds from the song will benefit the student-led March for Our Lives organization, calling for stricter gun laws, and Families Belong Together, a protest against the Trump administration policy of separating children from families after they are detained crossing the U.S. border illegally.

In the video confronting gun violence at schools, BEP members will.i.am and Taboo—who portray a teacher and a gym coach—are shot by a gunman along with several students, while others run for safety. Apl.de.ap is a police officer in the clip.

The second video focuses on border portal officers stopping immigrants from crossing the U.S. border.

"Big Love," which is reminiscent of the Black Eyed Peas 2003 hit "Where Is the Love," will appear on the band's new album, "Masters of the Sun." It will be released Oct. 12 and is their first album since 2010's "The Beginning."

The Grammy-winning group's hits include "Boom Boom Pow," ''My Humps" and "I Gotta Feeling." They will launch their The Masters of the Sun Tour on Oct. 27 in London and wrap Nov. 18 in Dusseldorf, Germany.

Fergie, who released a solo album last year, has not recorded with the group. Representatives for the singer and the Black Eyed Peas didn't clarify her role in the group when asked by The Associated Press.

It's tapped: Beer flows as Oktoberfest opens in Munich

MUNICH (AP)—The first keg has been tapped and the beer is flowing as the 185th Oktoberfest gets underway in Munich.

Mayor Dieter Reiter inserted the tap in the first keg on Saturday with two blows of a hammer and the cry of "O'zapft is" — "it's tapped." As tradition demands, he handed the first mug to Bavarian governor Markus Soeder, who declared that "the Oktoberfest is perhaps Bavaria's biggest and best calling card in the world."

Around 6 million visitors are expected at the festival grounds in Munich before the Oktoberfest ends on Oct. 7. As in previous years, backpacks and large bags are banned for security reasons.

Beer prices are up again, with a liter (2-pint) mug costing up to 11.50 euros ($13.50) — a 55-cent increase over last year.

Hundreds of visitors, most of them wearing traditional lederhosen or dirndls, waited to be let in the festival grounds early Saturday morning ahead of the official keg-tapping at noon.

Some 600 police officers and hundreds of stewards will keep order at the fenced-off grounds over the 16 days of the event.

AP

A young woman celebrates the opening of the 185th 'Oktoberfest' beer festival in Munich, Germany, Saturday, Sept. 22, 2018.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Burt Reynolds mourned at small private memorial in Florida

NORTH PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—About 80 of Burt Reynolds' friends and relatives shared memories of the late actor at a private memorial service. Reynolds' ex-wife Loni Anderson and their son Quinton Anderson Reynolds were among the speakers at the Thursday service at Quattlebaum Funeral Home in North Palm Beach, Florida, a family spokeswoman, Cheryl Kagan, told The Associated Press. Reynolds died at age 82 on Sept. 6 at a hospital in Jupiter, Florida, and a death certificate issued Sept. 10 that was obtained by "Entertainment Tonight" said that he had already been cremated. Neither family nor officials have revealed a cause of death. Bobby Bowden, former longtime football coach at Florida State University, where Reynolds was a player, opened the service with a prayer and went on to tell stories from throughout the actor's life. Anderson, who had a famously difficult divorce from Reynolds, shared happier moments from their 12 years together, calling their son Quinton their "greatest collaboration." Other guests included Lee Corso, the ESPN football analyst who was a teammate and roommate of Reynolds in college, and former NCAA and NFL quarterback Doug Flutie.

Freddy Krueger ready to scare the cast of 'The Goldbergs'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Freddy Krueger is coming for "The Goldbergs." ABC announced Friday that Robert Englund is reprising his role as the "A Nightmare on Elm Street" slasher for a Halloween episode of the ABC sitcom. The show is keeping with its 1980s setting. The Krueger episode, titled "Nightmare on Elk Avenue," centers on the fears of the show's teenage protagonist, Adam, after seeing "A Nightmare on Elm Street." Englund, who played Krueger in eight horror films starting in 1984, was known for killing teens in their sleep wearing a gloved hand with sharpened razors. In a statement, Englund calls his guest appearance "a spooky valentine to the fans." The sixth season of "The Goldbergs" premieres on Sept. 26 at 8 p.m. Eastern, and the Halloween episode will air in October.

Mass tourism threatens Croatia's 'Game of Thrones' town

DUBROVNIK, Croatia (AP)—Marc van Bloemen has lived in the old town of Dubrovnik, a Croatian citadel widely praised as the jewel of the Adriatic, for decades, since he was a child. He says it used to be a privilege. Now it's a nightmare.

Crowds of tourists clog the entrances to the ancient walled city, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, as huge cruise ships unload thousands more daily. People bump into each other on the famous limestone-paved Stradun, the pedestrian street lined with medieval churches and palaces, as fans of the popular TV series "Game of Thrones" search for the locations where it was filmed.

Dubrovnik is a prime example of the effects of mass tourism, a global phenomenon in which the increase in people travelling means standout sites—particularly small ones—get overwhelmed by crowds. As the numbers of visitors keeps rising, local authorities are looking for ways to keep the throngs from killing off the town's charm.

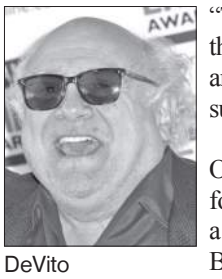
"It's beyond belief, it's like living in the middle of Disneyland," says van Bloemen from his house overlooking the bustling Old Harbor in the shadows of the stone city walls.

On a typical day there are about eight cruise ships visiting this town of 2,500 people, each dumping some 2,000 tourists into the streets. He recalls one day when 13 ships anchored here.

Danny DeVito receives lifetime achievement award in Spain

SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain (AP) — Actor Danny DeVito has been honored with a lifetime achievement award at Spain's most prestigious film festival in the northern coastal city of San Sebastian.

DeVito, 73, received the award from the San Sebastian International Film Festival during Saturday's gala. The American comic film star is promoting the animated children's film "Smallfoot" at the festival.



DeVito

DeVito won an Emmy and a Golden Globe for his role in the 1970-80's TV sitcom series "Taxi." Other career highlights include leading roles in the hit 1980s comedies "Throw Momma from the Train" and "Twins" and scores of endearing supporting parts.

He also shared an Oscar nomination for best picture as a producer of "Erin Brockovich" in 2000.

He currently stars in the TV series "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia."

Suge Knight pleads to manslaughter over fatal confrontation

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Averting a murder trial that had been nearly four years in coming, former rap mogul Marion "Suge" Knight pleaded no contest Thursday to voluntary manslaughter for running over and killing a Compton businessman and agreed to serve nearly 30 years in prison.

The Death Row Records co-founder entered the plea in Los Angeles Superior Court after striking a deal with prosecutors, and has agreed to serve 28 years. Jury selection for his trial, which could have led to a life sentence, had been scheduled to begin Monday.

Knight was charged with murder, attempted murder and hit-and-run after fleeing the scene of a dispute in January 2015 outside a Compton burger stand. Knight and Cle "Bone" Sloan, a consultant on the N.W.A. biopic "Straight Outta Compton," traded punches before Knight clipping him with his pickup truck and ran over businessman Terry Carter, who died from his injuries.

Man afraid to be alone starts affairs with married woman

DEAR ABBY: My son has taken it upon himself to get romantically involved with two different married women. He's newly divorced after a long marriage and hates the idea of being alone. He says he loves them both, but realizes there's no future with either one, so he's trying to extricate himself from the jam he's gotten into. The problem is, the women refuse to let go, and it's causing all sorts of problems. Any ideas?

DAD IN THE MIDDLE IN NEW YORK

DEAR DAD: If you are smart, you'll stay out of this mess. Hasn't it occurred to you that if your son was truly unhappy with the situation, he—not you—would have sought help for his problem?

He doesn't love either of those women; he loves what he's getting from them—attention, companionship, sex. Because they are married, he doesn't have to worry about them wanting a commitment from him as a single woman might. If he really wanted to stop these dolls from "stalking" him, he would threaten to make their husbands aware of what's been going on, and THAT would be the end of it.

DEAR ABBY: I am 15 and my mom was recently diagnosed with cancer. My two older sisters are away in college, and my dad works all the time. How should I balance taking care of Mom, doing schoolwork and playing field hockey? I wish I could give each task my full attention, but I'm not going to be home much because of school.

JUGGLING IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR JUGGLING: I am sure your mother's diagnosis has caused stress for every member of your family, including those who are away, and for that I am sorry. You are so young, and I can only imagine the stress you are feeling.

If you were discussing this with your mother, I am sure she would tell you—as I am—how important it is that you keep up with your schoolwork and activities. You cannot assume the entire responsibility for her care by yourself. Who will help her during her treatments, and how much time you should realistically devote, is something both your parents should help you to determine. None of you will really know how much assistance she'll require until the process is started, so be flexible and take things a step at a time.

DEAR ABBY: My mom owns two successful women's clothing stores near my hometown that she's had for more than 10 years. The problem is, she named them after me, and I hate it!

I've tried talking to her about it many times, but every time I bring it up she gets sarcastic, says things like, "This is a fun conversation," and doesn't let me get a word out. I have tried talking to the rest of my family about it, but they don't consider it a big deal and tell me I'm being ridiculous. I have run out of ideas about what to do, so if you could give me some advice, it would really help.

ANGRY DAUGHTER

DEAR ANGRY DAUGHTER: Many daughters would consider what your mother did to be a compliment. However, because it bothers you so much, consider going by your MIDDLE name. And, if that doesn't satisfy you, and you feel strongly enough about this, go to court and legally change your name to another one you like when you reach adulthood.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

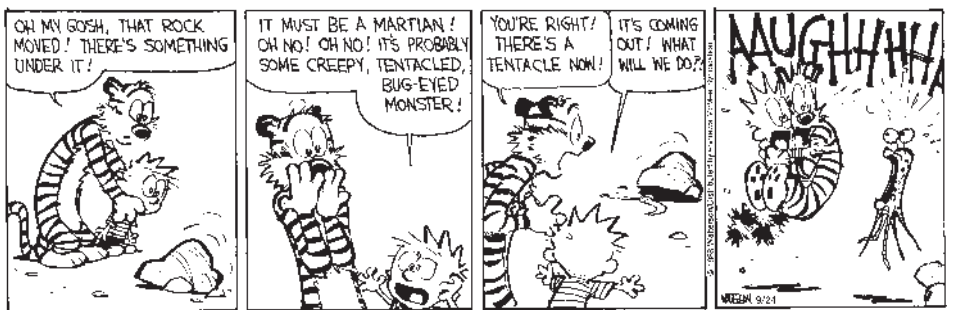
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


OH MY GOSH, THAT ROCK MOVED! THERE'S SOMETHING UNDER IT!
IT MUST BE A MARTIAN! OH NO! OH NO! IT'S PROBABLY SOME CREEPY, TENTACLED, BUG-EYED MONSTER!
YOU'RE RIGHT! THERE'S A TENTACLE NOW!
IT'S COMING OUT! WHAT WILL WE DO?
AAUGHHHHH

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Energy
4 Ticket remnants
9 Church seat
12 Commotion
13 Bridal path
14 Gorilla
15 White arctic mammal
17 Brooch
18 Chowed down
19 Cut in half
21 Leave
24 Crystal gazer
25 Buck-eyes' sch.
26 "Mangia!"
28 Cavalry sword
31 Hit the runway
33 Arrest
35 Zhivago's love
36 "— di Lammermoor"
38 Petrol
40 Joke
41 Coal scuttles
43 Pure
45 "King James" of the NBA
47 "— -Tiki"
48 Egg (Pref.)
49 Hack's novel
54 Just out
55 Pick up the tab
56 Bedazzle
57 Right angle
58 Remains
59 Society newcomer

DOWN
1 Use a taser
2 Altar affirmative
3 D.C. figure
4 "No Exit" writer
5 Lhasa native
6 Work with
7 Spills the beans
8 Episodic TV show
9 Groceries holders
10 Monumental
11 Exited
16 Bond rating
20 Navy commando
21 Ken or Barbie
22 Jacob's twin
23 Sangria vessel, often
27 Label
29 Part of Q.E.D.
30 Fury
32 Couturier Christian
34 Historic Boston area
37 Takes as one's own
39 Photo assignments
42 Bull's sound
44 Blackbird
45 Single
46 Daring Knievel
50 Pot brew
51 Young fellow
52 Farm female
53 CSA soldier

Solution time: 26 mins.

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C	C	T	■	I	I	I	A	C	■	■	■	■
W	I	S	P	■	N	E	W	■	C	H	A	T
■	■	■	L	O	G	■	K	A	P	A	T	E
C	R	E	E	P	■	■	■	S	A	T	E	D
P	I	N	A	T	A	■	A	H	I	■	■	■
A	B	C	D	■	H	A	R	■	G	O	N	G
■	■	■	■	P	E	R	M	S	■	B	A	H
S	N	A	I	L	M	A	I	L	■	A	V	A
C	A	R	L	O	■	B	E	E	■	M	E	N
I	N	K	E	D	■	S	S	W	■	A	L	A

Last Friday's Answer 09-24

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	8	■	9	10	11
12			■	13					■	14		
15			16						■	17		
■	■	■	18			■	19		20			
21	22	23				■	24				■	■
25			■	26		27	■	28			29	30
31			32	■	33		34	■	35			
36				37	■	38		39	■	40		
■	■	41			42	■	43		44			
45	46					■	47			■	■	■
48			■	49		50				51	52	53
54				55					■	56		
57				58						59		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Spencer Treat Clark, 31; Erin Chambers, 39; Nia Vardalos, 56; Kevin Sorbo, 60.

Happy Birthday: Focus on what you can do to make your life better. Don't limit yourself because of what someone else is doing. Hone your skills and concentrate on making changes and moves that will help you release stress and replace it with positive thoughts. You fare much better mentally, emotionally and physically when you feel at peace. Your numbers are 4, 9, 21, 23, 26, 34, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Refuse to limit what you can do because someone makes you feel insecure or stands in your way. Where there's a will, there's a way to overcome any obstacle you encounter. Don't give away your plans or your secrets. Listen and observe. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Change is heading your way, but it's up to you to embrace it and to make the most of whatever unfolds. Use your tenacity to bring about what you want to see happen. Stand your ground and make your point heard. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Get out and mingle. Whether it's a work event or socializing, the people you talk to will spark your imagination. The offer you least expect will turn out to be intriguing. It never hurts to take a look at something new. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Listen carefully and do your own thing. As long as you take care of your responsibilities first, you will find it easier to serve your needs and accomplish your personal goals, regardless of what others want. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Keep life simple. Think matters through. Don't get caught up in someone else's dilemma or poor choices. Overreacting, overspending and overdoing will lead to a dispute that can damage your reputation or a relationship that is important to you. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Look at your options and follow through. Use your experience to make better choices. Partnerships are favored as long as you can work out the fine but important details that will ensure equality. Personal improvement is favored. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Don't give in to demands. Use your intelligence to come up with a workable solution. Letting others push you around or missing out on something you want to do to appease someone will only add to your stress. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Interact with people you find creative and stimulating or who spark your imagination to help you make a change that will improve your life. Someone who owes you a favor will offer something in return. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Keep your emotions under control. If you let your feelings dictate what you say, you will speak out of turn and give someone the wrong impression. Truth should be put first. Use your intelligence and strength to do what's right. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't go to battle with someone over something you know little about. Put your effort into keeping the peace and getting things done. It's what you accomplish that will bring you the response you are looking for. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Follow through with your plans and don't let anyone stand in your way. If someone tries to push you in a direction that doesn't sit right, be brave and walk away. Trust your instincts and do what feels right. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Express how you feel and what you want to see happen. An open dialogue will bring you one step closer to getting what you want as long as you are willing to compromise. It takes two to tango. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are energetic, smart and unpredictable. You are innovative and determined.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

7	2			5			3	4
5					6			7
	9		3				1	
	5		7		4	3		
6								1
		1	9		2		7	
	6				5		2	
4			2					6
2	8			4			5	9

Difficulty Level ★ 9/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

1	9	6	5	7	4	2	8	3
4	7	3	2	6	8	1	9	5
8	5	2	1	9	3	4	6	7
7	1	5	4	8	2	6	3	9
6	4	8	9	3	5	7	2	1
2	3	9	6	1	7	8	5	4
3	6	4	8	5	1	9	7	2
5	8	1	7	2	9	3	4	6
9	2	7	3	4	6	5	1	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ARETHA FRANKLIN (1942-2018) Solution: 11 letters

K	S	W	E	E	T	T	E	D	W	H	I	T	E	Q
C	O	W	O	H	S	L	E	S	I	U	O	L	R	U
O	U	E	I	I	E	C	S	A	V	E	M	E	A	E
R	L	N	N	G	N	U	S	S	E	N	N	V	C	U
E	K	A	N	E	N	C	I	N	O	A	J	O	A	O
S	I	A	R	Y	C	I	S	U	M	A	U	L	L	Y
P	K	A	F	I	L	M	S	O	Z	N	M	R	L	E
E	L	E	P	S	O	G	W	Z	O	N	P	E	M	V
C	A	T	C	O	I	L	L	I	V	E	T	P	E	O
T	R	I	D	A	A	H	S	Y	F	S	O	E	B	L
U	A	O	D	R	L	S	P	R	C	W	I	E	T	I
R	B	R	U	O	A	F	O	M	O	A	T	D	I	Y
M	R	T	O	P	R	W	U	O	E	S	G	A	T	B
A	A	E	R	M	A	M	D	Ⓕ	Ⓐ	Ⓜ	Ⓔ	E	E	A
N	B	D	P	L	Y	D	A	E	T	S	E	U	L	B

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A Deeper Love, Angel, Baby I Love You, Barbara, Blues, Call Me, Care, Clarence, Detroit, Doo Wop, Dorma, Edward, Encino, Erma, Fame, Films, Glynn, Gospel, Jazz, Jump to It, Kecalf, Legacy, Let It Be, Live, Louise, Memphis, Music, Natural Woman, Nessun, Passion, Pianist, Proud, Respect, Rock, Rose, Save Me, Show, Soul, Steady, Sweet, Ted White, Think, Turman

Last Friday's Answer: Restaurants

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP18-CHCC/BUSINESS OFFICE-011

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 04, 2018 **TIME: 9:00AM**

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MANDATORY PRE-SUBMISSION ON-SITE ASSESSMENT

A MANDATORY ON-SITE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT AREA WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2018 AT 9:00AM. ALL INTERESTED VENDORS MUST ATTEND TO VIEW THE SPACE AND MAY TAKE MEASUREMENTS AND ASK ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS.

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: September 17, 2018 • **CLOSING DATE:** October 02, 2018
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary:
2018-011	Accounting Clerk	PL23-4 to PL23-07 $19,272.74 to $22,302.94-per annum

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to jjmuna@nmhc.gov.mp. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

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MARIANAS GEOTECH SERVICES
Chalan Msgr. Guerrero Rd., Dandan
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JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

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QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelor's degree in engineering from a U.S. college or university or foreign equivalent, at least 2 years of geotechnical and/or relevant engineering experience, computer proficient, valid CNMI driver's license, and good oral and written communication skills.

SALARY: Determined based on qualifications

ASSISTANT ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN

DUTIES: Assist engineering technicians in performing field and laboratory testing, and soil investigations. Prepare draft reports based on project observations and inspections. Input field and laboratory data. Communicate with clients, project managers, and others regarding projects. Other duties as assigned by supervisor. Project-specific travel required.

QUALIFICATIONS: High school diploma or GED, at least 1 year of relevant experience and/or training, computer proficient, valid CNMI driver's license, and good oral and written communication skills.

HOURLY RATE: Determined based on qualifications (plus OT)

Applications are available at **www.marianasgeotech.com**, and at the MGS office in Dandan, and must be submitted by **October 8, 2018**, to Chelsea Borja at admin@marianasgeotech.com or at the MGS office.

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• 3-Liner	$15	$30
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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Braves get NL East crown; Yankees take AL wild card

ATLANTA (AP)—The Braves capped a most surprising season by clinching their first NL East crown since 2013, with Mike Foltynewicz taking a no-hitter into the seventh inning Saturday in a 5-3 win over the Philadelphia Phillies.

A year after going 70-92, manager Brian Snitker and his Baby Braves surged back into the playoffs.

Atlanta makes its first postseason appearance since 2013 on Oct. 4 in the NL Division Series. The Braves won their 18th division title, tying the New York Yankees for the most in the majors since division play began in 1969.

Philadelphia, which led the division in early August, is 6-14 this month.

"When we started this series, we knew it was within our grasp," Snitker said. "We knew we couldn't lose track of today. I know I'm redundant saying that all the time, but I felt we just needed to stay current and worry about today's game. These guys have done an unbelievable job of that this year."

Foltynewicz (12-10) tipped his cap to a standing ovation as he left with runners on first and second in the eighth with a 4-0 lead.

Arodys Vizcaino, in his first save situation since June 17, closed out the ninth for his 16th save.

Jake Arrieta (10-10) allowed four runs, four hits and three walks in two innings, the shortest outing of his nine-year career.

AP

Atlanta Braves' Ender Inciarte slides into second base with a double in the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Philadelphia Phillies, Saturday, Sept. 22, 2018, in Atlanta

Yankees 3, Orioles 2

In New York, Aaron Boone ducked out of the Yankees clubhouse, where a wild, wild card-clinching celebration was still at its foamy, high-volume peak.

Even through a champagne mist, the rookie manager could see the challenging October road ahead.

"We have a long way to go," Boone said. "Hopefully, we'll start a special journey now."

It took extra innings on Saturday before the Yankees officially stamped their playoff ticket, dancing off with a win against the Orioles before 40,185 fans at Yankee Stadium.

"Any time you get a chance to go to the postseason, it's a blessing. It's a lot of hard work, all around, from top to bottom in this organization," said Aaron Judge, headed to his second straight postseason. "But we're not done yet.

"We still have a lot of work to do and this is just the first step," Judge said. "Just got to continue to keep working and keep playing through October."

Athletics 3, Twins 2

In Oakland, Stephen Piscotty doubled leading off the ninth and scored on a wild pitch by Trevor Hildenberger (4-5) as Oakland cut its magic number to one for a wild-card berth with its second straight walk-off win over Minnesota.

Marcus Semien homered for Oakland, which opened a 7½-game lead over Tampa Bay for the AL's second wild card.

Blake Treinen (9-2) retired three batters.

Blue Jays 5, Rays 2

In Toronto, rookie left-hander Thomas Pannone (4-1) allowed two runs and six hits in 6 2/3 innings to win his third straight start.

Rowdy Tellez homered and drove in three runs for Toronto,

Tommy Pham and Jesus Sucre hit solo home runs for the Rays.

Tyler Glasnow (2-7) gave up three runs and six hits in six innings, losing for the fourth time in five starts.

Cubs 8, White Sox 3

In Chicago, Javier Baez homered and the visiting Cubs took advantage of huge mistake by Ryan LaMarre to move 2½ games ahead of second-place Milwaukee in the NL Central. LaMarre allowed Daniel Murphy's fifth-inning drive to left to sail over him for an RBI double, and Ben Zobrist followed with a two-run single.

Jon Lester (17-6) labored through five innings to move into a tie with Washington ace Max Scherzer for the NL lead in wins. The left-hander allowed three runs, two earned, and eight hits in his second straight victory.

Lucas Giolito (10-12) was charged with five runs and seven hits in 6 2/3 innings.

Pirates 3, Brewers 0

In Pittsburgh, Trevor Williams (14-9) combined with three relievers on a five-hitter, cutting Milwaukee's wild-card lead to two games over St. Louis.

Pittsburgh's 16 shutouts are one behind Detroit, the major league leader.

Starling Marte hit a two-run double in the third off Zach Davies (2-7), and Colin Moran added an RBI single in the eighth.

Cardinals 5, Giants 4

In St. Louis, Tyler O'Neill hit a solo home run off Mark Melancon (0-3) with two outs in the 10th inning, and St. Louis remained 1½ games ahead of Colorado for the second NL wild-card spot. Yadier Molina also homered for St. Louis, which won for the fifth time in six games.

Carlos Martinez (8-6) pitched two scoreless innings.

Dodgers 7, Padres 2

In Los Angeles, Manny Machado hit a three-run homer on his bobblehead night to highlight a five-run third inning, and Los Angeles maintained a 1½ -game lead over second-place Colorado in the NL West.

Yasmani Grandal and Joc Pederson also homered to back Rich Hill (10-5), who allowed one run and four hits in seven innings and improved to 8-1 since the All-Star break.

Rockies 5, Diamondbacks 1

In Phoenix, Antonio Senzatela (6-6) allowed three hits in seven innings for Colorado.

Arizona has lost 11 out of 14 and is seven games back of the Cardinals with seven games left.

Patrick Corbin (11-7) allowed four runs, five hits and four walks in a season-low three innings.

Astros 10, Angels 5

In Houston, Jose Altuve capped a nine-run eighth with a two-run homer as Houston overcame a 5-1 deficit. The AL West-leading Astros remained 3½ games ahead of second-place Oakland.

After the Angels scored five times in the top of the eighth, Yuli Gurriel, Brian McCann and Evan Gattis each hit RBI singles off of Ty Buttrey (0-1) to close the lead to 5-4.

With the bases loaded and one out, pinch-hitter Tyler White hit a chopper to third baseman Taylor Ward, who threw the ball into right field for an error that allowed two runs to score. George Springer followed with a two-run single off Blake Parker.

Justin Verlander allowed one hit and struck out 11 in six innings. Collin McHugh (6-2) got the final two outs of the eighth.

Mariners 13, Rangers 0

In Arlington, Robinson Cano hit a go-ahead, three-run homer in the fifth off Mike Minor (12-8), and Marco Gonzales (13-9) allowed one hit over six innings to eliminate Seattle. The longest playoff drought in the four major U.S. pro sports extended to 17 years.

Cano, who added an RBI double and had three hits, has nine homers—five since returning from an 80-game drug suspension Aug. 14.

Dee Gordon connected for his third homer, a two-run shot in the eighth off Bartolo Colon in the 45-year-old's fourth relief appearance.

Indians 5, Red Sox 4

In Cleveland, Michael Brantley singled in the winning run in the 11th inning off Drew Pomeranz (2-6), delaying Boston's bid for a club record 106th victory and home-field advantage throughout the postseason.

Tyler Olson (2-1) pitched two scoreless innings.

IMike Clevinger struck out six in five innings and raised his total to 202, making the Indians the first team in major league history to have four pitchers reach 200 in the same season. Carlos Carrasco (217), Trevor Bauer (215) and Corey Kluber (205) are the others

Nationals 6, Mets 0

In Washington, rookie Austin Voth (1-1) and four relievers combined on a one-hitter, hours after Washington was eliminated from playoff contention. Matt Wieters and Trea Turner homered for the Nationals.

Making his second major league start, Voth allowed an infield single to Michael Conforto leading off the fourth inning.

Corey Oswalt (3-3) allowed two runs in five innings.

Tigers 5, Royals 4

In Detroit, Mikie Mahtook hit a two-run homer in the eighth, and Detroit was a winner in Victor Martinez's final major league game.

With the score tied at 3, Niko Goodrum led off the eighth with his third hit of the game, a single off Jason Hammel (3-14). Mahtook then lined Hammel's 1-0 slider over the left-field fence.

The 39-year-old Martinez, who made his debut with Cleveland in 2002, hit an infield single in his first at-bat and was removed for pinch-runner Ronny Rodriguez. Fellow Venezuelans Salvador Perez and Alcides Escobar came out of the Royals' dugout to embrace the five-time All-Star as he walked off the field to a standing ovation.

Joe Jimenez (5-4) allowed the Royals to tie it in the eighth, and Shane Greene earned his 31st save.

Marlins 5, Reds 1

In Miami, Austin Dean homered and drove in three runs, and five pitchers combined on a six-hitter in a matchup of last-place teams.

Jose Urena (8-12) pitched 5 2/3 scoreless innings and won his fourth start in a row, and Drew Steckenrider stranded two runners for his fifth save.

Anthony DeSclafani (7-7) tied a career high with 10 strikeouts but allowed five runs, three earned, in 5 2/3 innings.

Woods 18 holes away from historic win

ATLANTA—Eighteen holes rest between Tiger Woods and one of the crowning achievements of his storied career.

Eighteen holes from a comeback for the ages.

Eighteen holes from his first PGA Tour title in more than five years.

On a bright, hot Saturday at East Lake Golf Club, Woods turned golf on its axis and turned a masterful start reminiscent of his best days of yesteryear into a three-shot lead heading into Sunday's final round of The Tour Championship, the FedExCup finale.

Yes, this could happen. Yes, he could win again 17 months after his spine was fused. Yes, he's back to being a major contender.

With every part of his game on point, Woods, who shared the 36-hole lead with world No. 1 Justin Rose, made birdie on six of his first seven holes, the lone exception coming at the par-3 second. He missed just one fairway and hit every green in those first seven holes and his iron play was impeccable. As was his putting stroke as the golf ball found the bottom of the cup after traveling 23 feet on the first, 8 feet on the third, 22 on the fourth, and then from 7, 6 and 5 feet on the next three holes.

The last birdie came after he rifled a 9-iron from a bunker 160 yards from the seventh green to 5 feet.

During those seven holes, it was vintage 2000 again, or 2001, or 2005 or 2006 or 2007 or 2008, the years he was an intimidating force who ruled over the game. In those seven holes, he reminded all of us how good he was and how good he can be again. In those seven holes, he was scary good, and the massive crowds were roaring their approval.

"Yeah, I got off to a nice start there," Woods said with a big grin. "I made some nice putts. Good Lord. Other than No. 3, every putt was uphill, so it was nice. I felt like I could free-wheel it, and they went in."

While Tiger tailed off the rest of the round compared to the start, he finished with a 5-under-par 65—the low round of the day. He has worked himself into his first 54-hole lead since the 2013 WGC-Bridgestone Invitational, which was his last victory. He is 53-4 when he has at least a share of the lead after 54 holes. And the last time he squandered a lead after three rounds was the 2009 PGA Championship when Y.E. Yang toppled him.

With rounds of 65-68-65, Woods is at 12 under, three shots clear of Rory McIlroy (66) and Rose (68). It's another three shots back to Kyle Stanley (67) and Jon Rahm (68). McIlroy will be paired with Woods in the final group Sunday.

"I dreamed as a little kid playing in the final group with Tiger in a big tournament," McIlroy said. "He was the best in the world, of all time, and you dream of beating the best.

"But all I can do is worry about myself. It doesn't matter who it is I'm playing with. It's obviously exciting for the golf tournament. It's exciting for golf in general that he's up there. But for me, all I can do is concentrate on myself. The game is hard enough without looking at other people. I have to go out there, take care of my business, and hopefully that's would work against the best players in the world —and 22 of the top 25 are here this week.

He's fiddled with equipment all year looking to match it up with his swing. A key moment came before the first FedExCup Playoffs event when he added loft and changed the shaft in his driver. Since then, it's become a weapon again.

"I've gone through a lot this year to get myself to this point, and understanding and fighting my way through it, I'm certainly more equipped than I was in March because of what I've gone through," Woods said. "It feels great to have worked my way into this spot. This has been a difficult setup. It's a golf course that's very easy to make bogeys, and it's difficult to make birdies. My game plan throughout the week has been very conservative.

"And occasionally I'll get hot for a couple holes and try and take advantage of it. It hasn't been real complicated."

All week there's been something different about Woods. There's been a look about him, one screaming confidence, that he's the Alpha Male once again. On a ball-strikers course that fits his game—he won here in 2007 and finished second in 2009—he feels right at home. And he was in form, having finished in a tie for fourth in the BMW Championship, the third of four events in the playoffs.

And there's something different about his position on the leaderboard after three rounds than at any time this year. He's the one being chased.

good enough.

Woods has gone through a lot of trial and error this year to get his game in shape to be good enough to win his 80th PGA Tour title. After fusion surgery to his spine 17 months ago, Woods worked his body back into shape and then started on his golf game.

After missing the cut in the Genesis Open in February, he realized he was healthy enough to add tournaments instead of subtracting them. At that moment, he knew he could put together a swing that

AP

Tiger Woods hits out of the 16th tee box during the third round of the Tour Championship golf tournament Saturday, Sept. 22, 2018, in Atlanta.

Towns getting $190M, 5-year extension from Wolves

MINNESOTA (AP)—Karl-Anthony Towns is getting a new deal from the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Jimmy Butler is still waiting to get a new address.

Towns announced Saturday night that he is recommitting to the Timberwolves, securing his future there while Butler's remains a mystery. A person with knowledge of the negotiations told The Associated Press that Towns will be signing a five-year super-max extension worth $190 million.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because neither the team nor Towns publicly revealed the financial terms of the deal. Towns posted a video to social media with the wording "5 More"—a clear nod to the length of the contract.

"On June 25th, 2015, I was drafted to and committed to the Minnesota Timberwolves," Towns wrote in an Instagram post. "On September 22nd, 2018, I made a recommitment to the Wolves and have the same feelings of excitement that I felt back in 2015."

Towns is going into his fourth season, was an All-Star for the first time a year ago and was the Timberwolves' second-leading scorer last season at 21.3 points per game.

The status of Minnesota's leading scorer last year, however, remains most uncertain.

Butler told the Timberwolves several days ago that he has no intentions to be with them for the long-term and wants a trade. The Athletic reported on Saturday that Butler will not be appearing at Minnesota's media day on Monday, or the first day of training camp Tuesday—although it's entirely possible that the Wolves may trade him by then anyway.

A person familiar with the talks has told AP that the Timberwolves have had some conversations with clubs, talks that were originally described as the team gauging what the trade market might be for Butler.

Butler led Minnesota at 22.2 points per game last season. If he gets traded, which seems more than likely now, he will be on a third team in little over a year — Chicago traded him to the Timberwolves on draft night in 2017.

Towns was the No. 1 overall pick by Minnesota in 2015. He hasn't missed a single game in his pro career, playing and starting in all 82 in each of his three regular seasons as well as the Timberwolves' five playoff games last spring.

"I promise to the fans, my teammates, and the organization to keep the vision of the man who drafted me, Flip Saunders alive and treat his dream of winning with respect and dignity," Towns said. "To the fans from Day 1 and the Timberwolves fans, this is for you. Thank you for believing in me."

DeAndre Jordan joins Mavericks

In Dallas, DeAndre Jordan took off his warmup jacket, tossed it aside and declared that his decision to join the Dallas Mavericks didn't mean he also would be playing for his favorite NFL team, the Dallas Cowboys.

Humor was the center's way of easing into all the questions about his infamous jilting of the Mavericks in free agency three years ago, when he agreed to play for Dallas and changed his mind before contracts could be signed.

When it was pointed out to him that folks in Dallas hadn't seen the fun-loving side of the native Texan before Mavericks media day Friday, Jordan did what he had done for most of his 15 minutes with reporters. He smiled.

"You haven't seen this side?" Jordan asked, repeating the observation. "You guys hated me the past three years so I probably wasn't very open in interviews. You know what I mean? I'm excited to get to know all of you guys."

Jordan wanted to get one thing straight before agreeing again to sign with the Mavericks, this time after opting out of the final year of that four-year contract he signed with the Los Angeles Clippers in the summer of 2015. He wanted to make sure coach Rick Carlisle and Dirk Nowitzki, among others, didn't have any hard feelings.

Browns delay naming Mayfield new starting QB

AP
Cleveland Browns quarterback Baker Mayfield celebrates after scoring a 2-point conversion during the second half of an NFL football game against the New York Jets, Thursday, Sept. 20, 2018, in Cleveland.

CLEVELAND (AP) — The beer-fueled bash spilled into the streets around FirstEnergy Stadium as delirious Browns fans walked — some staggered — while chanting for their new hero, the streak buster.

"Ba-ker May-field," they screamed.

They've named their new starting quarterback. Coach Hue Jackson isn't quite there yet.

Jackson said he isn't ready to "officially" identify his starter for next week's game in Oakland, but all signs point to Mayfield taking over in Cleveland following his dazzling NFL debut on Thursday night.

The No. 1 pick in this year's draft replaced concussed starter Tyrod Taylor late in the first half and led the Browns (1-1-1) on four scoring drives as they erased a two-touchdown deficit to beat the New York Jets 21-17 and end Cleveland's 19-game winless streak—the NFL's second longest since 1970.

Jackson seems to only be delaying the inevitable: Mayfield's the guy.

And if Jackson doesn't' pick the celebrated and uber-confident rookie, he won't have to jump in Lake Erie again. Browns fans will throw him in. This one's a no-brainer.

Jackson, who gave his players the weekend off, wants to watch more tape and speak with his staff and general manager John Dorsey before making a decision that Mayfield has already made for him.

Although Jackson wouldn't publicly say Mayfield is his new starter, he gave strong indication he's leaning that way by telling reporters on a conference call, "I think that you guys all feel good about where things are headed."

It's Baker time.

Out of respect for Taylor, who is in concussion protocol with his third head injury in 13 months, Jackson wants to tell his two quarterbacks his decision in person on Monday before sharing it with the world.

Cleveland's plan was to bring Mayfield along slowly and groom him under Taylor, who guided Buffalo to the playoffs last season. But Taylor's injury along with his struggles in three starts has altered the Browns' strategy.

Taylor has completed 41 of 84 passes for 462 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions, adding 125 yards rushing on 16 carries.

But even before he was knocked from Thursday's game, Cleveland's offense was going nowhere as Taylor was 4 of 14 for 19 yards and was sacked three times. Jackson sidestepped addressing whether he was going to pull Taylor at halftime, but it had to be running through his mind because anyone watching the game was thinking the same thing.

Mayfield's first regular-season game as a pro couldn't have gone much better. He completed 17 of 23 passes for 201 yards and was sacked once in just a little more than one half. His stats could have been more impressive if not for a drop by sure-handed receiver Jarvis Landry, and rookie Antonio Callaway letting a long throw down the sideline slip through his hands.

"He made some tremendous throws," Jackson said. "Obviously, he was able to move the team. Played with some rhythm. Got the ball into the playmakers' hands and gave them chances to make plays. There are some things that he has to clean up, obviously. We can't have the ball out on the ground. There are some progression things that we will work through.

"Overall for his first game out under the lights in that environment in that situation, he handled all of that extremely well and played well."

Most impressively, Mayfield did it on a short work week and without taking any snaps in practice with Cleveland's first-team offense. In fact, the 2-point conversion try he caught in the third quarter came on the first time he had ever run the play.

But just as he did while winning the Heisman Trophy at Oklahoma, Mayfield elevated everyone around him, and in turn electrified 60,000 fans and a national TV audience.

Mayfield took it all in stride, displaying humility that some wondered if he had after some questionable on-field antics while he starred for the Sooners. This game ranked with any of his wins.

"This one is definitely up there, being the first NFL game that I have played in," he said. "First regular-season one that actually counts. It is definitely up there for me. I have had some great memories, but I am just getting started."

CNMI

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ing their ground, Thailand did not hit the board until the 36th minute off a free kick. The second goal came five minutes later from a cross after a corner kick, according to Ito.

The Commonwealth players managed to limit Thailand's production after scouting and watching the latter's match against Singapore and Tajikistan.

"After observing Thailand's game against Singapore and Tajikistan, coaches have seen that they are a strong, tactical, and technical team. They have key players that create goal scoring opportunities in addition to all their players that have good techniques in controlling and playing the ball. Their off the ball movement is also one of their key tactics in penetrating opponent's defense," Ito said.

"The girls knew and understood that we will be playing defensively and with depth in our own half to disallow goal scoring opportunities for our opponents. During the meeting/discussion, we talked about awareness of opponent's attacking us through the blind side and how they switch the ball when they are not able to penetrate in the middle area," she added.

After making life difficult for Thailand in the first half, the CNMI, which is hobbled by injuries and other health concerns to some of its players, surrendered six goals in the second.

"Regardless of the loss, we anticipated a tough game against a strong team. Our goal was to minimize their attacking plays and limit them from scoring as much as possible. The girls had their own goal for this game, and that was to keep the score in single digit," Ito said.

"Thank you to all who are supporting the team and have been behind us from the start. We hope the girls make you proud as they have been doing their best to represent NMI well," the assistant coach added.

Meanwhile, the results of the CNMI-Singapore tiff will no longer affect the standings of the Group C qualifier. Iran and Thailand had already secured the two spots to Round 2 after winning their first three games. They collided in the other game yesterday, while host Tajikistan was done with the tournament as early as last Saturday, posting a 1-0-3 win-draw-loss mark for fourth place. Singapore held a 1-0-2 mark before its game against the CNMI last night.

ARMATECH

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contributions in the first half, while Lauron knocked in at least one basket in each of the four periods.

As for Pacific Postal Plus, Ryan Odicta was the lone double-figure scorer on the squad, firing 10, but he was scoreless in the fourth quarter. Four other Pacific Postal Plus players recorded at least 6 points each, but most of their baskets came when the game was already decided.

Meanwhile, Pacific Islands Club Saipan and Imperial Pacific played in the second match in the opening day and results of the game will be reported in *Saipan Tribune*'s Tuesday edition. PIC Saipan earlier won the Best in Muse and Best in Uniform awards.

Six more squads are entered in the Emon Lodge caging with Kanoa Krushers, Cellular Pro, Islander Rent A Car, Kensington Hotel, MJD, and PEGS/JWS also joining yesterday's opening ceremony.

Tomorrow, four more squads will debut in the league, which will have its matches every Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday.

Armatech 64 — Gaviola 19, Montano 14, Asuhan 10, Lauron 10, Cosino 6, Moreno 4, Malasarte 4, Zapanta 2.

Pacific Postal Plus 44 — Odicta 10, Mortos 9, Brocano 8, Usi 8, Agbanlog 6, Ordoy 3.

TWIN

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ond set in similar scores. Mt. Carmel averted a shutout loss after prevailing in the third set, 15-5.

Up next for GCA was Saipan Southern and the former also won the first two sets to clinch the early victory in the last game of the night. The opening set was a close game with the Lady Eagles eking out a 25-21 triumph. In the second, GCA gained more cushion en route to a 25-17 win. With the game already decided, GCA took its guards down a bit, allowing Saipan Southern to record a 15-10 victory.

Earlier in the first game on the southern side of the MHS Gymnasium, Saipan Southern swept Kagman. Though the Lady Rays took only two sets to win, Kagman did not give up without a fight, as the former posted a single-digit winning margin, 25-18, in the opener, and had an even tougher in the second, 25-22.

Meanwhile, after losing to GCA in its first game of the day, Mt. Carmel bounced back and dominated Agape, 25, 8, 25-6, 15-2.

Agape is still winless this season and hopes to end the drought when it plays two matches tomorrow. Agape will challenge the leading GCA in the first match at 4:30pm before facing SIS in the last game at 6:30pm (make-up). Also scheduled to see action tomorrow are Saipan Southern and SIS at 4:30 and 5:30pm, Kagman and MHS at 5:30pm, and MHS JV1 and MHS JV2 at 6:30pm.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Boston	105	50	.677	—
y-New York	95	59	.617	9½
Tampa Bay	86	68	.558	18½
Toronto	71	84	.458	34
Baltimore	44	110	.286	60½

Central Division

x-Cleveland	86	68	.558	—
Minnesota	71	83	.461	15
Detroit	63	92	.406	23½
Chicago	61	93	.396	25
Kansas City	53	102	.342	33½

West Division

z-Houston	97	57	.630	—
Oakland	94	61	.606	3½
Seattle	85	69	.552	12
Los Angeles	75	80	.484	22½
Texas	65	89	.422	32

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

x-Atlanta	87	68	.561	—
Philadelphia	78	76	.506	8½
Washington	78	77	.503	9
New York	72	83	.465	15
Miami	61	93	.396	25½

Central Division

Chicago	90	64	.584	—
Milwaukee	88	67	.568	2½
St. Louis	86	69	.555	4½
Pittsburgh	78	75	.510	11½
Cincinnati	66	90	.423	25

West Division

Los Angeles	86	69	.555	—
Colorado	84	70	.545	1½
Arizona	79	76	.510	7
San Francisco	72	83	.465	14
San Diego	62	93	.400	24

z-clinched playoff berth
x-clinched division
y-clinched wild card

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2018 Asia Flow Tour

PHOTOS BY JULIA ESPINO, PIC SAIPAN

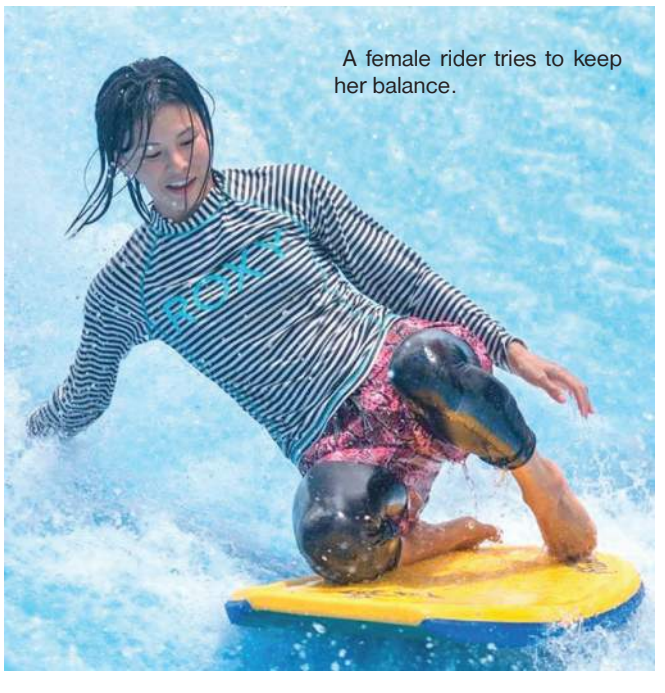
A participant in Pacific Islands Club Saipan's 2018 Asia Flow Tour is airborne, as he performs tricks for the judges during the bodyboard competition at PIC Saipan's artificial wave machine facility.

Isaiah Aleksenko shows the judges some of his moves in the beginner bodyboard division.

PIC Saipan's Chris Mojar jumps from his flowboard.

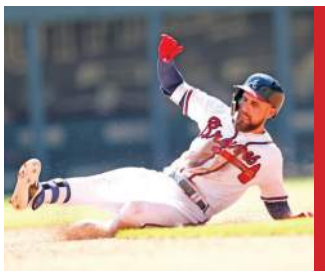
A participant in the bodyboard competition shows some acrobatic moves.

A young rider leaps and is poised to get back into his bodyboard.



A female rider tries to keep her balance.

Participants and organizers of the 2018 Asia Flow Tour pose for a photo at the conclusion of the tournament.



Braves get NL East crown; Yankees take AL wild card

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Woods 18 holes away from historic win

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Twin wins for MHS

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Marianas High School is back on track after sweeping its pair of matches in the 2018-2019 PSS Interscholastic Volleyball League last Thursday at the MHS Gymnasium.

The Lady Dolphins, who bowed to Saipan International School and Mt. Carmel School last Tuesday, played back-to-back matches last Sept. 20 and prevailed in both, beating Kagman High School first before downing Agape Christian School in the second game.

Against Kagman, MHS cruised to a 25-7 in the opening set of their match on the south court and then earned the automatic win after outclassing the Lady Ayuyus in the second, 25-18. The Lady Dolphins went on to complete the sweep following a 15-4 triumph in the third set.

From the southern side of the court, MHS moved over to the north to face Agape. The Lady Dolphins again had an easy time taking the first set against the Torchbearers, 25-14, before Agape played better in the second, but still lost, as MHS recorded a 25-17 win that sealed the deal for the host team.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Marianas High School's Pauline Villanueva jumps serve to Saipan International School during their game in the 2018-2019 PSS Interscholastic Volleyball League last week at the MHS Gymnasium.

MHS then showed no mercy on Agape despite getting the outright victory after the second set, as the Lady Dolphins posted a 15-1 win in the third.

In other results, GCA also went 2-0 last Thursday, while Saipan Southern High School and Mt. Carmel had splits.

The Lady Eagles played in the first game on the north court and challenged the Lady Knights. GCA drew first blood with a 25-16 win in the opener and then got the automatic victory after taking the sec-

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Armatech takes Emon Lodge caging opener

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Armatech drew first blood in the 2018 Emon Lodge No. 179 Brotherhood/IT&E Basketball League after whipping Pacific Postal Plus, 64-44, in the opening game yesterday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

Young gun Renren Gaviola teamed up with veterans Bernard Montano, Alex Lauron, and Mark Asuhan in giving Armatech the victory in its season debut. Gaviola led all scorers in the curtain-raiser, firing 19 points, while Montano, Lauron, and Asuhan also finished in twin digits. Montano added 14 markers, while Lauron and Asuhan chipped in 10 each.

Armatech set up the easy victory after pulling away in the third period behind the 7 straight points of Gaviola. The lanky guard went on to deliver the killer blows for the winning squad, as he drilled Armatech's last 9 markers.

Montano and Asuhan, on the other hand, made early

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Armatech's Mark Asuhan pulls up for a shot against two Pacific Postal Plus players during the fourth quarter of their game in the opening of the Emon Lodge/IT&E caging yesterday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

ASIAN FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION PHOTO
The CNMI U16 Women's National Team's Paulynn Joyce, second left, tries to keep the ball away from a Thailand player during their game in the AFC U16 Women's Championship 2019 Qualifiers last Friday in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

CNMI completes stint in AFC tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI U16 Women's National Team wrapped up its campaign in the AFC U16 Women's Championship 2019 Qualifiers after playing its last two games over the weekend in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

The Commonwealth bets dueled Thailand last Friday with the latter winning, 8-0. Then yesterday, the CNMI was pitted against Singapore and results of last night's match were unavailable as of press time.

Thailand may have won the match by a wide margin, but not after having a hard time scoring in the first half, which ended with the Thais ahead by only a deuce.

"Thailand had a difficult time penetrating the middle area and had to swing the ball left and right to try to separate our defense. Our full backs did so well to cover spaces and opponents and disallowed blind side passes," assistant coach Angie Ito said.

With CNMI defenders hold-

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